THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SUNDAY • JUNE 27, 2021 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 24 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianxpress twitter.com/newindianxpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

PFIZER, MODERNA JABS POSE RISK TO HEART, WARNS F.D.A.

The US Food and Drug Administration on Friday warned of a rare risk of heart inflammation among people taking the jabs

THOSE AFFECTED ARE MOSTLY YOUNG MALES

The US drug regulator said after taking these Covid vaccines, users run the risk of getting inflammation of heart muscles (myocarditis) and of the outer lining of the heart (pericarditis). In the US, such inflammation cases post vaccination have been recorded more among young males. In most cases, the symptoms appeared within a week of taking the second dose

PALPITATION, FATIGUE COMMON SYMPTOMS

- The risk, however, is very low. About 1,200 cases of inflammation have been reported after 300 million people took these jabs
- There have been 309 cases of hospitalisations in the US due to vaccine-linked inflammation. Of this, 295 have been discharged
- Heart palpitation and fatigue are among the common symptoms

1.3 mn

PFIZER JABS TO BE AVAILABLE IN INDIA PER WEEK FROM SEPTEMBER

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Centre to tweak policy to allow single-doctor centres to offer shots

Soon, you may get jab in your neighbourhood clinic

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

IN a bid to increase the reach of Covid vaccines and remove vaccine hesitancy especially among the rural populace, the Centre plans to tweak the vaccination policy to allow single-doctor clinics to offer the jabs.

"The proposal of permitting single-doctor clinics to carry out Covid19 vaccinations has been given in-principle approval after many states suggested this," said a senior official with the Union health ministry.

The official, who did not wish to be named, told TNIE that the move will allow people to access vaccines from their trusted doctor next door, who can help remove vaccine hesitancy which is emerging as an issue in many towns.

However, there are concerns about monitoring of adverse events following immunisation. "Detailed guidelines for it are being worked out," the official added.

Another source in the ministry said in some states, state aggregators have already started asking doctors practising independently to raise the demands, which will then be conveyed to vaccine makers via the Centre.

Welcoming the move, Girdhar J Gyani, director-general, Association of Healthcare Providers of India (a body of private hospitals), said: "It's a much-needed step as vaccination has now reached almost a saturation level in big cities while a large population in smaller towns is yet to get shots."

The government has been emphasising that it wants more private hospitals, especially those in far flung and remote areas and smaller ones, to come forward to take part in the vaccination drive. It has said that this scale-up is required to remove the regional inequity in access to vaccination.

Under the existing inoculation strategy, 25% of the total vaccines available in the country are to be procured by private hospitals and offered to recipients for ₹150 administrative cost plus the actual price of the vaccine per dose—while in government hospitals, jabs are to be administered free of cost.

However, in terms of actual vaccinations carried out so far, the role of private hospitals has remained quite limited and private hospitals only in cities in some states have been able to participate in a big way.

J&J's single-shot vaccine could be available in July

Johnson & Johnson's single-shot vaccine could be available in private hospitals by next month for about `2,000 per dose, according to the Association of Private Healthcare Providers in India | P9

TIME FOR CAUTION

With Delta+ worry, TAC says don't unlock in a hurry

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

WITH the threat of Covid Delta-Plus surge looming and Maharashtra deciding to go slow with its unlocking, Karnataka's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has come out with a list of measures to be taken immediately. It has also advised the government not to hurry with relaxing the norms.

The Centre too has urged Karnataka, where two cases of Delta-Plus are seen, to take immediate containment measures, prevent crowds, conduct widespread testing and increase vaccine coverage on priority in districts where the variant has been detected.

TAC, which held a meeting on Saturday to discuss measures to contain Delta-Plus, advised the government to take follow-up action in districts, sources said. "After confirmation of the variant, a detailed epidemiological investigation shall be done by the district Rapid Response Team (RRT) under District Surveillance Officer (DSO) and the reports should be shared with the deputy commissioner, district expert committee and state Covid war room," the TAC suggested.

Keeping in mind that it takes one to two weeks to genome sequence the samples, the TAC has advised RRTs to investigate "the clinical status of Covid-positive person, whether he/she is admitted, under home isolation, recovered or died, etc. Also, they should find out if a Covid-negative test is warranted for such people after 14 days of recovery", said the TAC advisory. The teams are also expected to verify whether all contacts of the person tested positive for the variant were identified and tested on day 0 to day 7. CONTINUED ON: P4

Citizens wait in a queue at Dasappa Maternity Hospital, where a vaccination drive for 18+ was conducted, in Bengaluru on Saturday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

STATE LOGS 4K CASES IN 1 DAY

In what appears to be a clear indication of people flouting Covid norms, Karnataka on Saturday reported about 1,000 cases more than what it recorded on Friday. The state logged 4,272 fresh cases on Saturday compared with 3,310 cases the previous day. However, the positivity rate marginally dipped from 8.43% on Friday, to 8.40% on Saturday. Meanwhile, experts attribute the case increase to various factors. P4

'STRICT VIGIL AT STATE BORDERS'

Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi on Saturday said the government contemplates making it mandatory for people entering Karnataka by crossing the border to produce a Covid-negative report. Expressing concern over rising cases of the Delta+ variant in Maharashtra, he added that his department had been working on measures to ensure strict vigil across all checkposts on the Karnataka-Maharashtra border. P4

KARNATAKA	JUNE 25	JUNE 26
Fresh cases	3,310	4,272
Recoveries	6,524	6,126
Deaths	114	115

NATIONWIDE	JUNE 25	JUNE 26
Fresh cases	51,667	48,698
Recoveries	64,527	64,818
Deaths	1,329	1,183

Planning to open colleges by Aug: DyCM

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

TO resume offline classes at colleges and higher educational institutions by August, the State Government aims to administer at least one shot of Covid vaccination to all college-going students and teachers before July-end, said Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Higher Education Dr Ashwath Narayan.

In an exclusive interview to *TNSE*, he said a vaccination drive, "Marali Collegige" (back to college), will be launched in July under which all degree students will be vaccinated.

"The Dr Devi Shetty committee report has recommended opening of degree colleges first. We will vaccinate students and staff of these colleges on priority," he said.

The government has earmarked 20 lakh vaccinations for the drive. The plan was finalized after discussions with academic and health experts, he said. He explained that the government is planning a staggered reopening of classes. Students will have to produce vaccination certificates to college authorities once institutions reopen, he added. P4

Special school principal held for sexual harassment

ENS @ Bengaluru

A 43-year-old principal of a school meant for specially challenged children in Dobbaspet has been arrested on charges of sexually harassing one of his students.

The incident took place on May 5, when the accused principal called a 21-year-old male student to his house and forced him to watch porn videos. The student revealed during a counselling session that he was harassed and based on his complaint, the principal was arrested on Friday.

The student was taken for counselling as the secretary of the school noticed a marked change in his behaviour. "The principal was interrogated and produced before court, which handed him over to judicial custody," a police officer said.

The principal's residence is situated on the school premises and he has been working with the school for the last eight years. There have been no complaints from other students so far, he said.

During interrogation, the principal confessed that he had harassed the student, the officer said.

Polls in mind, BJP seeks to change its narrative

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

WITH the disappointing West Bengal poll results still fresh in mind, senior BJP leaders met on Saturday to plan for elections coming up in five states early next year. Party chief J P Nadda on Saturday hosted senior ministers for a brainstorming session to chalk out a strategy for the upcoming elections, with the thrust being on stepping up the Covid vaccination drive to showcase achievement and managing the unrelenting farm agitation.

Leaders lament Covid's impact on brand Modi

There's a feeling within the party that the second wave of the pandemic has damaged the public perception of brand Modi. According to sources in the party, senior leaders have blamed the pandemic for the BJP's dismal performance in West Bengal

Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Narendra Singh Tomar and Nirmala Sitharaman took part in the deliberations with Nadda. The BJP chief subsequently held another brainstorming session with party vice presidents and national general secretaries to chalk out the plans for the elections-bound states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur and Punjab.

It has been reliably learnt that the BJP will roll out senior ministers to begin touring districts in the poll-bound states soon with the aim to build the narratives in favour of the party on the basis of the achievements of the Central government and the respective state dispensations. The saffron outfit is worried as the farmers are not ready to stop their agitation against the Central government. Jat mobilisation against the BJP could hurt the prospects of the party in the crucial Uttar Pradesh elections.

The BJP is banking on Rajnath Singh, who's seen as a farmer leader within the party, to help counter farmers' anger. Besides western UP, the BJP is also staring at losing its ground in Punjab where the party's oldest ally Shiromani Akali Dal has switched sides to ally with the Bahujan Samajwadi Party.

"While the government is aiming to cover the eligible people with vaccination by December, party leaders stressed on the need to advance it to October so that there's enough time on hand to build the narrative in favour of Brand Modi, which had taken a hit due to the second wave of the pandemic, which cost the party dearly in the last phases of the polls in Bengal. Also, the farmers need something concrete from the Centre to calm them down ahead of the polls," sources said.

EXPRESS READ

Goa-bound Rajdhani Express derails, all passengers safe

Mumbai: A Goa-bound Rajdhani Express train from Hazrat Nizamuddin in Delhi, with 309 passengers on board, derailed inside a tunnel in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra early on Saturday, but nobody was injured in the incident, officials said.

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

June 25: **54,48,406 doses**

June 26: **58,10,378 doses**

TOTAL DOSES: 32,11,43,649

Nandini
Cheese
A blend of taste and deliciousness
100% Natural
Made from Cow Milk.
Nandini
Processed Cheese Block
Available in 200 g, 500 g & 1 kg pack
Processed Cheese Cubes
Available in 200 g, 500 g & 1 kg pack
Processed Cheese Slice
Available in 100 g, 200 g & 750 g pack
Mozzarella Cheese Block
Available in 200 g & 1 kg pack
Mozzarella Cheese Shredded
Nandini Naturally Nutritious
Bamul
Bengaluru Co-operative Milk Union Ltd.,
Toll Free No. 1800 425 6737
www.bamulnandini.coop
COVID-19 DO NOT PANIC BE AWARE
Wear mask
2 meters distance from others
Sanitize hands frequently
Get a self-induced vaccine

ISRO CASE

Nambi held without proof, says D K Jain panel report

P RAMDAS @ Kochi

FORMER ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan was arrested by Kerala police in 1994 without any material or record to show his involvement in the 'espionage', according to the Justice D K Jain Committee report.

Like Narayanan's, the committee found the arrests of ISRO scientists B Sasikumaran and K Chandrasekharan, and labour contractor S K Sharma were also without any proof. The panel, which delved into the conspiracy angle in the espionage case, suggested a detailed investigation into the physical and mental torture of Nambi and Chandrasekharan by interrogators. The portion of the report, accessed by TNIE, is part of the FIR filed by the CBI before the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Thiruvananthapuram, on June 17.

Nambi Narayanan

The case, which had made headlines in 1994, pertained to allegations of transfer of certain confidential documents on India's space programme to foreign countries by two scientists and four others, including two Maldivians. Citing the report, the seventh paragraph of the FIR stated the undocumented interrogation of Maldivian Mariyam Rashida was illegal. The report also cited "deliberate leaking of information to the press by the investigating agency to create a narrative implicating the scientists".

The panel also mentioned the representation by Narayanan before it alleged that during the course of his arrest and interrogation he was pressured by the interrogators to falsely implicate his immediate bosses Muthunayagam and U R Rao of ISRO in the matter. Narayanan had also informed the panel "there was deliberate attempt to remove him from the development of Cryogenic technology and there was a design to harm the ISRO cryogenic technology project".

> **There was an attempt to remove me... there was a design to harm the ISRO cryogenic tech project** Nambi Narayanan to panel

ALMANAC TODAY
Sunday: 27/06/2021 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Uttharayana • Ritu: Greeshma • Masa: Jyeshta • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Thruthee ya 6.46 pm • Nakshatra: Sravana 4.51 am • Moon in Kumbha Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm • Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST
Rain showers. Cloudy

Sunrise 5.56 am
Sunset 6.49 pm
Moonrise 9.33 pm
Moonset 8.19 am

WEAVERS HITCH WAGON TO SOCIAL MEDIA

Hit by pandemic, North Karnataka handloom weavers go online to get orders, and now are trying to build a brand

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Gadag

THE Ilkal sari is no longer synonymous with the rural belts of North Karnataka, where it is worn both at weddings and in the fields. The sari, symbolic of the region, is now in a more stylish league, a must-have in every wardrobe, and features in Facebook videos and websites. It is in great demand across Karnataka, and is sold at malls in South Indian metros too.

It was not so just a few months ago. Weavers of this handloom sari and other traditional varieties were in despair after the Covid-19 lockdown last year, especially with the wedding and festival season turning a damp squib. It is a wedding tradition in North Karnataka to gift cotton and silk saris to all relatives, and it is almost mandatory for families to buy hundreds of saris. Parents of the bride and groom give a gift hamper of a sari, haldi and kumkum, and family members are expected to wear these saris for the marriage rituals. But last year, marriages were cancelled or were simple low-budget affairs, and handloom units lost business.

With markets closed, orders dried up and stocks piled up, and the distressed weavers decided to find a way to reach out to customers. Some decided to go online, presuming that the pandemic may not vanish in the near future. Others started their own websites, and yet others turned to social media platforms, hardselling their products with videos on Facebook and YouTube. Weavers who do not have websites, have joined hands with online stores and microblogging sites to get orders. The uploaded videos and content on these sites also put their names on the organic Google rankings page, which will fetch them customers.

It seems their ventures have yielded results, and they are earning handsome returns. They are expecting good orders to roll in once the festival season starts. Pramod Raibagi, a weaver, said, "We were upset after all the marriage orders were cancelled. Then we got a query through a Facebook message. This led us to think of online sales, so we could reach other states too. Now we are getting orders from all parts of Karnataka. We have also tried to contact some websites, but need to work on this after the Covid wave subsides."

Not all are going online. Some are still struggling, like a couple from Betageri who have no idea about online sales, especially after their son went to Pune in search of a good job. They say they prefer to sell offline.

Weavers like Suresh Bannadabhavi and Ashok Vannal say that online sales promise growth. "We launched our website and got connected with weaving societies from other States who helped us get orders. Some agents from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra also give orders. It may be a slow process but it's working, and sales are increasing. We are now working on brand development to reach international customers."

Said Vannal, "It was a crisis but we could start sales online during the lockdown. It will take some time for small and mid-level weavers to get orders as many of **them are from rural areas and not used to microblogging sites and online page rankings. They are now using social media platforms."**

COLOURS APART

Solid colours and unique designs set the Ilkal sari apart, which is now commanding a better price. Cotton saris cost Rs 800 upwards, while pure silk variety can go up to

₹ 10,000

Betageri (Gadag), Ilkal, Gajendragad, Banahatti, Shigli, Koppal and Guledagudda have hundreds of weavers, besides smaller numbers in hamlets in Vijayapura and Belagavi

WAITING FOR TEXTILE PARK

North Karnataka weavers have been demanding a textile park for many decades, and their dreams are likely to come true with CM B S Yediyurappa announcing in his last budget that a textile park will come up at Guledagudda in Bagalkot district

SPECIAL SERAGU

Saris are unique as they are woven by joining the warp and pallu warp with a series of loops colloquially known as 'tope teni'. Kondi technique is used for weft by inserting three shuttles

Famous for seragu (pallu), which is usually red with patterns of white temple towers. Ends of the pallu contain comb, fort ramparts, jowar and mountain range patterns

The topi teni seragu has three solid portions, one red and other colours, preferably white; borders are always maroon or red

Wearing silk or cotton sari with topi tenu seragu is a status symbol during marriages and festivals, and the wearer is given much respect

GI TAG

Ilkal is famous as the weave dates back to 8th century AD and has a Geographical Indication (GI) tag

Ilkal saris have found place in the lyrics of some Kannada songs and dialogues too. Ravichandran starrer 'Hallimestru' and BC Patil's 'Kaurava' have separate songs which start with the line, 'Ilkal seere utkondu...'

Decoding history cast in stone

RAMACHANDRA V GUNARI @ Shivamogga

TO D Ismail, the mastigallu (masti stone) is a fascinating storyteller. It talks about the history and the people as he peers into the inscrutable inscriptions — whether it is in Modi lipi or Halegannada (ancient Kannada).

The epigraphist from Birur town in Chikkamagaluru district took a fancy to the knowledge hidden in stones, and is one among a small number of people who can understand 'Modi lipi', a cursive script used to write several languages, including Kannada. It is just like English running hand, he says. It became an abiding interest while studying Kannada at the pre-university level at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial College.

Ismail (63) says Modi lipi is a kind of early Kannada writing found from the times of Ashoka to the 18th century, which was used to record events and facts about emperors and their empires.

In English, it is termed 'cacography', which according to the Kannada dictionary, means 'illegible handwriting', seen mostly in ancient stone inscriptions called mastigallu and veeragallu (hero stone).

Ismail is studying stone inscriptions to analyse their contents for anything related to astronomy and is compiling a research paper on the subject 'Astronomy in Inscriptions'. Other issues that he is studying include natural calamities, music and life events, recorded in inscriptions to understand the culture of people going back to the Cholas, Gangas, Rashtrakutas and others who ruled South India.

The curiosity that drew him to these stones soon became his passion. "I studied various books related to Modi script, and under the guidance of epigraphist Shambhu Lingappa, I visited ancient sites in and around Birur, Kadur and Chikkamagaluru with him. I learned to read inscriptions in Modi script and also in Halegannada. I started reading books written by famous epigraphists like M M Kalburgi, Chidanandamurthy, A V Narasimhamurthy and others."

Though Ismail could not pursue his education after pre-university, he never missed an opportunity to upgrade his Halegannada-related knowledge. Today, he is a well-known epigraphist who offers guidance to students of Kannada literature researching inscriptions and Halegannada in various universities.

He has a rare collection of more than 5,000 books related to epigraphy, Halegannada, mastigallu and veeragallu.

He has written a book titled 'Madhya Karnataka-dalli Beeradevaru' (still a manuscript) about Beeradevaru, a deity worshipped by the Kuruba community. The book throws light on the community, where they came from, and how they settled in Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru and Chitradurga districts. He has travelled the length and breadth of these districts to collect information and did a field survey for more than two years.

He suggests that people interested in inscriptions read the book 'Kannada Lipiya Ugama Mathu Vikasa' by A V Narasimhamurthy, and 'Lipi, Lipikara, Lipi Vyavasaya' by Shettar, for those who want to learn Halegannada.

Ismail is one of the four sons of E M Dastagir Saab and Razia Begum of Birur, who have had a grocery business at M G Circle in Birur town for many decades. Even today, Ismail is the one who opens the grocery shop in the morning and takes care of the business.

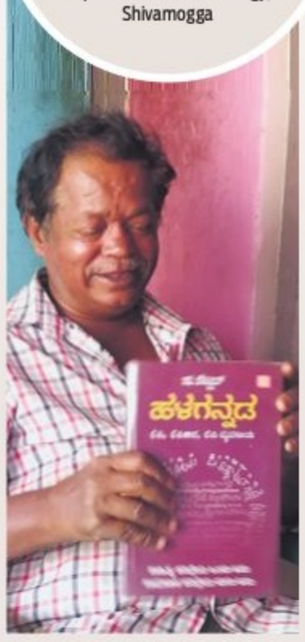
He has a rare collection of more than **5,000** books related to epigraphy, Halegannada, mastigallu and veeragallu

He goes by the pen name 'Kannada Tanaya'. He's a history lover in the true sense and has immense interest in inscriptions. On several occasions, we have had debates over different inscription issues and the Kannada language. He's very knowledgeable and has worked in the research area of inscriptions

Dr B Rajashekharappa, Retired Principal of Government Arts College, Chitradurga

About two years ago, I came in contact with Ismail when we conducted a seminar on natural heritage in Chikkamagaluru. He is an inscription researcher and a resourceful person for many research students of Kannada literature

Shejeshwar R, Assistant director, Department of Archaeology, Shivamogga



JABS ON THE GO

DRIVE-THROUGH VAX INITIATIVE A BREEZE FOR CITIZENS

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

THE recent initiative of drive-through vaccination seems to have become a hit with many opting for it instead of visiting hospitals and primary health centres, and putting themselves at risk of infection.

An NGO, The Helping Hands National Welfare and Charitable Trust, held one such drive at Forum Mall in Koramangala in association with Manipal Hospitals, Jayanagar and AlterEgo Studios, from Thursday till Saturday. First, it was planned for only two days, but was extended by a day, with an increase in demand.

In all, 1,120 people got vaccinated. They had to drive to the mall parking lot, and were inoculated while sitting in their vehicles. Both Covaxin and Covishield were available, and one had to choose and pay before getting vaccinated.

The registrations were done through CoWin and WhatsApp to avoid crowding. Tables and chairs too were kept at the spot, and those who wanted it got down from their vehicles for vaccination.

Syed Ummer Hashim, joint president, The Helping Hands, said, "We tied up with the mall and hospital, which made it easier. As we were told that many were hesitant to go to hospitals, we decided to arrange the drive. We will soon organise another campaign, if everything goes well."

A 46-year-old businessman from BTM Layout, who got vaccinated at the mall, said, "The process was faster and smoother. I was past my second dose deadline, as I was scared to go to a hospital. Soon after I got to know about drive-through vaccination, I registered. Such drives make it easier for people."

ACT Fibernet donates 5K vaccines

Internet provider ACT Fibernet donated more than 5,000 vaccines at a camp conducted in Mathikere on Saturday. The vaccination drive was organised at Sri Venkateshawara School in Mathikere, and launched by Dr C N Ashwath Narayana foundation. So far, private companies have donated 12 lakh vaccines, as against the government's aim to get 30 lakh jabs from them in the form of donations.

Smart City internship win-win for youth, urban planners

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU is not just a smart city in the making, in terms of function or infrastructure, but is getting smarter in its recognition of young talent as well.

As part of the Smart City programme, to draw young talent and seek better ideas to improve Bengaluru, the government has been taking engineering graduates into government agencies for engineering, architecture, IT and urban planning projects on a three-month internship programme. It is also giving them a stipend of Rs 25,000 a month, along with a certificate and citation, which will help them get government or private jobs.

Bengaluru Smart City Managing Director P Rajendra Cholan said this move began a year ago, and so far, around 25 graduates have completed their internship with the Smart City team itself. The interns have also got the opportunity to work in various government departments like IT, State and BBMP war room, DULT and Integrated Command and Control Centre project.

He explained that they are placed in agencies based on their educational qualification, talent, field of interest and skills. They are encouraged to ideate innovative solutions, which are then tested on the ground to understand their practicality. This effort of the government to provide a platform for graduates, was also recognised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, in the Smart Cities Mission award ceremony.

"This is a good exposure to get hands-on experience and on-the-ground training. It also helps students understand their interest and we also benefit, as we get to utilise young talent and create a resource pool for future projects," an official added.

Tumakuru bags third place for its digital library

Tumakuru Smart City Limited bagged the third place in the sixth summit of the Indian Smart City Awards Contest (ISAC) for its project 'Digital Library Solution', which stood apart for being conducive to even the physically-challenged and visually-impaired. Tirupati won the first place for 'Health Benchmark for Municipal Schools', followed by Bhubaneswar's 'Social Smart' projects.

Interns are taken under The Urban Learning Internship Programme (Tulip), wherein so far 182 have taken up internship

The programme is in collaboration with All India Technical Board

Completed	Ongoing
30	13

3 Batches - Civil and IT & Web Designing; 2 Batches - Urban Planning; 1 batch - Data Analyst

BRAVING THE WEATHER

Women workers take cover under plastic sheets amidst heavy rain, which lashed Bengaluru on Saturday evening | VINOD KUMAR T

City gets largest Miyawaki forest

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

WHILE many trees in Bengaluru are being marked to be axed for various infrastructure projects, a group of people who have created a large man-made forest on a degraded forest patch in the outskirts of the city.

The 4.75 acres of Miyawaki forest created on Indian Railway Institute of Disaster Management land in Hejjalla, Mysuru Road, is the largest man-made forest in Bengaluru, according to Say Trees, an NGO group. The area is covered with 60 native species in four layers — trees, sub-trees, canopy and shrubs. "The project started in November 2018 and now the saplings stand tall and dense. The area will be with us till January 2023 after which it will be handed over to the Railways. We have created around 25 such forests in Bengaluru like in Banaswadi, Kengeri, KR Puram, Jigani, and are doing the same in other states also," said Shashank Sharma, programme manager, head of Miyawaki forests, Say Trees.

PIC CREDIT: SAY TREES

Explaining the difference between a natural or any other created forest with that of Miyawaki, Sharma explained that in the latter, dense plantation is done in small areas like in one acre where around 10,000-20,000 saplings can be planted. "The water used in all types of plantations, initially is the same and gradually the Miyawaki forests become self-sustained. The purpose of creating these type of forests is that they are suitable for urban areas, where greenery is becoming a challenge," he said.

The first-ever Miyawaki forest was created in Toyota's industrial land in Bidadi in 2021. Sharma added that the saplings for the forest have been procured from the government and private nurseries.

Minister for Youth Empowerment and Sports K C Narayana Gowda has said that the State Government will extend financial support of `10 lakh to sportspersons selected from Karnataka who will take part in this year's Tokyo Olympics

Cong to connect with Covid-hit groups

Party to launch campaign to help those in distress, families that lost their members to pandemic

Amid the debate in Congress over its CM face, a bull with 'Next CM Siddaramaiah' written on its back was spotted at Karahunnime festival in Gadag district

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

EVEN as the Congress tackles the debate on the party's chief ministerial candidate, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D K Shivakumar on Saturday held a series of meetings to discuss measures to strengthen the organisation and also sharpen its outreach campaign to help people affected by Covid-19. Speaking to reporters after meeting senior leaders, including former CM Siddaramaiah, KPCC working presidents, MLAs and district presidents, over video conference, Shivakumar said the party is launching a one-month campaign to reach out to families that lost their members to Covid-19 and people in distress due to various reasons.

"From July 1, we will reach out to farmers, workers, people who lost jobs, families that lost loved ones to Covid, cab drivers and people from all sections," he said. The government claims that 30,000 people died of Covid-19, but as per the information they have, the number is over three lakh, he claimed. "Our party workers will reach out to the families, take their applications for compensation and deliver them to the officials. We have the responsibility to ensure that they get justice," he said. As many as 315 Congress leaders took part in the meeting. AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, who was scheduled to address the meeting, could not attend. Shivakumar said Surjewala was travelling and gave instructions to them over the phone. The KPCC president said leaders who are not active at the district and block levels will be changed. Earlier in the day, Shivakumar had held a meeting to discuss revamping the district units. He refused to answer questions related to the debate on the party's CM candidate.

KPCC chief to visit Ch'nagar

KPCC president D K Shivakumar will tour Chamarajanagar district and meet 36 families who lost their kin in the oxygen tragedy at the Chamarajanagar district hospital. Shivakumar, along with KPCC working president R Dhruvanarayana, is likely to pay compensation to the family members on Sunday. Dhruvanarayana said that the party will help the families in taking up a legal battle.

ZP, TP POLLS: BJP LOOKS TO GET A HEAD START

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @
Bengaluru

WITH the Covid-19 situation easing up, the ruling BJP is starting preparations for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat (ZP) and Taluk Panchayat (TP) elections. The elections to these urban local bodies are likely to be held early next year, only after the Covid situation is fully under control.

The BJP state executive committee meeting on Saturday discussed measures to strengthen the organisation at the grassroot level ahead of the elections and steps to be taken to help people affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. At the inaugural session of the committee meeting, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa called on the party leaders to be prepared to face bypolls to two assembly segments as well as the ZP and TP elections.

Ensuring good performance in local body elections will help the party to do well in the Assembly elections in 2023, he stressed.

After the meeting, BJP State General Secretary N Ravi Kumar said they have decided to hold district executive committee meetings between July 1 to 15 and meetings will be held at all mandals from July 16 to 30. Given the Covid situation, all these meetings will be held in hybrid mode, both physical and virtual, following all protocols. Booth presidents will be given nameplates by the party and a convention of Gram Panchayat members will be held in August, while the party has also planned to hold a state-level convention of GP presidents and vice-presidents in Bengaluru in October.

Party national general secretary in charge of Karnataka, Arun Singh, who participated in the meeting from New Delhi, asked the BJP leaders and workers to focus on strengthening the organisation and also to create awareness about the several initiatives taken by the state and central governments. Resolutions were adopted appreciating the measures by the central government to fight the pandemic and condemning post-poll violence in Bengal.

Covid efforts

State president Nalin Kumar Kateel said the party will felicitate workers who conducted the last rites of 4,531 people who died of Covid. He appreciated the State Government's initiative to provide Rs 1 lakh compensation to BPL families which lost a family member to Covid-19 and financial assistance to children who lost their parents. He slammed the Congress party leaders for only criticising the government and not providing any help to people affected by the pandemic. The BJP leaders and workers were also asked to actively involve themselves in the Covid vaccination drive.

CM plans Basavanna statue at Soudha

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa on Saturday directed Kannada and Culture Department to submit a proposal on installing a statue of 12 century social reformer Basavanna on the Vidhana Soudha premises.

The letter to the secretary, signed by the CM on June 9, reached the office of the Kannada and Culture Department three days ago. Commenting on it, a Department official said, "Though the idea is good, it needs to be examined legally. About five years ago, the Supreme Court had issued orders that no new statues can be installed in any public places. The issue will be discussed with Kannada and Culture Department minister Aravind Limbavalli and Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa before taking the final decision." Regarding the statue of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru being installed at Vidhana Soudha on Saturday, the official said it was an old one which was reinstalled. "There are already many statues in and around the premises," the officer pointed out. The government has already undertaken the construction of the Anubhava Mantapa in Basavakalyan at the cost of Rs 500 crore.

> **Though the idea is good, it needs to be examined legally. About five years ago, the Supreme Court had issued orders that no new statues can be installed in any public places**
>
> An official

EXPRESS READ

'Transport dept has incurred Rs 4k cr loss'

Bengaluru: The Transport Department has suffered a Rs 4,000 crore loss so far from March 2020 owing to the Covid situation and floods, said Deputy CM Laxman Savadi. Savadi, who also holds the Transport portfolio, said the department had been able to pay Rs 2,600 crore towards salaries of its employees. Due to Covid norms, only 50% of passengers are being allowed in buses.

'Yogeeshwara will not pass exam'

Tumakuru: Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's political secretary and former minister M P Renukacharya lashed out at Minister C P Yogeeshwara and said the latter will fail in his attempt to oust Yediyurappa as CM. "He might have written the exam, but did malpractice and hence will fail in it. Yediyurappa will complete his term," he told reporters at Siddaganga Mutt on Saturday.

POWER PLAY

Jarkiholi calls on senior RSS leader

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

WHILE the BJP top brass does not seem to be in any sort of hurry to re-induct former Water Resources Minister **Ramesh Jarkiholi**, the latter continued meeting leaders and seers in a last-ditch attempt to return to the cabinet.

On Saturday, Jarkiholi met senior RSS leader Arvind Deshpande, chief of the Sangh North Zone, at Athani and had a 30-minute meeting with him. According to sources, Jarkiholi briefed the leader about the turn of events that unfolded after his exit from the cabinet, while seeking his support to wriggle out of the situation. Several BJP leaders, including Deputy CM Laxman Savadi, meet Arvind Deshpande at Athani at regular intervals to seek his guidance and support. Before his upcoming meeting with Maharashtra former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Jarkiholi is expected to meet some more influential people over the next few days, sources added.

Jarkiholi remains firm on his decision to resign as MLA in his efforts to persuade the BJP and RSS leadership to clear the legal hurdles he faced and make way for his entry into the cabinet. Sources close to him said he was already in touch with many top party leaders before putting in his papers. He is expected to exert pressure on party leaders for another one to two weeks before finally taking a call to quit, the sources added.

Commenting about Jarkiholi's meeting with Deshpande, Deputy CM Savadi termed it as routine to seek guidance.

Congress leader Amaregouda Bayyapur said there is a possibility of Jarkiholi switching to another party, given that he was finding it difficult to adjust himself with the BJP culture. He could either switch to Congress or JDS in the coming days, he added.

COVIDCARE "24*7 ICU-ON-WHEELS"

A CSR Initiative of L&T Technology Services | Implemented By Samarthanam Trust

From Left: K.N.Prabhakaran, Head CSR, LTTS, Abhishek, Chief Operating Officer, LTTS, Dr. Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar, Founder Managing Trustee, Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, and Kumaraswamy C.R - Head Corporate Partnerships, Samarthanam

To support India and to overcome the second outbreak of COVID, Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, in association with L&T Technology Services (LTTS) are working to help the Disabled and underserved Communities who have been impacted. Together, they launched free 24x7 ICU-on-wheels, an Ambulance service in Bengaluru (India),- to assist the COVID affected on urgent basis.

The round-the-clock, high-end Ambulance is well-equipped with medical necessities such as ventilators, cardiac monitors, defibrillators, oxygen cylinders, emergency kit, other critical care life-saving equipment and medication.

The initiative was flagged off by **Sudip Banerjee,Chairman of CSR Committee and Independent Director, L&T Technology Services** on 25th June 2021 in Bengaluru. The event was presided over by **Abhishek, Chief Operating Officer and Member of the Board, L&T Technology Services.**

Samarthanam Task force, Trustees, Employees, and Management were present during the flag-off. Speaking on the occasion, **Dr. Mahantesh GK, Founder Managing Trustee of Samarthanam** said, "I am saddened at the loss India is facing due to the Corona crisis. We have lost many people dear to us and I believe that our emergency medical service vehicle is going to help those who need emergency COVID care. L&T Technology has been supporting our initiatives for a long time and I am glad that we have partnered with them for this noble initiative. I look forward to recuperating from the pandemic very soon." He also urged people to wear masks and get vaccinated to stay safe.

Official Handing over of 24x7 ICU Ambulance Keys by Abhishek, Chief Operating Officer, LTTS to Dr. Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar, Founder Managing Trustee, Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, along with K.N. Prabhakaran, Head CSR, LTTS.

Abhishek, COO and Member of the Board, L&T Technology Services said, "The pandemic has laid bare existing vulnerabilities across the world and it is the people who require emergency support who are most at risk. At LTTS, our mission is to empower the impacted sections of society with timely assistance and much needed resources. We are hopeful that this 24/7 ICU-on-wheels will help bring relief to all those who are in urgent need of medical support. LTTS along with Samarthanam Trust, is fully committed to complement the efforts of the Government and provide a fast and efficient response to those who need help the most".

Samarthanam Trust is at the forefront in offering services to the society during critical times. Since the COVID pandemic outbreak more than a year ago, the organization reached out to more than 10,00,000 people in need. Dry ration, food packets, PPE, Health kits, Rt-PCR, Masks, Sanitizers, ICU Beds and other medical needs were given away to people in dire need across the country. The recent vaccination awareness camps are helping people overcome the myths surrounding vaccination and move towards immunization.

Adv.

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

COVID-19

TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

4,272 CASES REPORTED TODAY

3,310 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

TALLY STANDS AT

TODAY	28,31,026
YESTERDAY	28,26,754

DEATHS

TODAY	YESTERDAY
115	114

DISCHARGES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
6126	6524

ACTIVE CASES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
1,05,226	1,07,195

POSITIVITY RATE

TODAY	8.40%
YESTERDAY	8.43%

The day positivity rate – 2.58% – is calculated as the number of patients testing positive out of 100 tests conducted only in a day.

MORTALITY RATE

TODAY	1.22%
YESTERDAY	1.22%

RECOVERY RATE

TODAY	95.05%
YESTERDAY	94.98%

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until June 26, 2021, a total of 28,31,026 cases have been reported in 1 year and 105 days...

2,15,54,336 Total doses administered in state

VACCINATION DRIVE STATUS

Number of people completing vaccination	34,21,679
Health care workers 1st dose	7,48,879
Health care workers 2nd dose	4,97,528
Frontline workers 1st dose	8,15,856
Frontline workers 2nd dose	2,46,956
Age 18-45 1st dose	57,12,856
Age 18-45 2nd dose	68,793
Above 45 1st dose	1,07,55,066
Above 45 2nd dose	27,08,402

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES

LAST 24 HOURS

955	BENGALURU URBAN
89	BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalkot: 3	Chamarajanagar: 71	Dakshina Kannada: 375	Hassan: 320	Kolar: 134	Raichur: 19	Udupi: 139
Ballari: 61	Chikkaballapura: 52	Davanagere: 80	Haveri: 27	Koppal: 26	Ramanagara: 13	Uttara Kannada: 62
Belagavi: 115	Chikkamagaluru: 200	Dharwad: 60	Kalaburagi: 22	Mandya: 134	Shivamogga: 217	Vijayapura: 12
Bidar: 2	Chitradurga: 75	Gadag: 30	Kodagu: 160	Mysuru: 647	Tumakuru: 159	Yadgir: 14

IMMUNISING K'TAKA A HUGE CHALLENGE

TEAM TNIE

THE acutely inadequate vaccination cover in Karnataka leaves a huge majority of the population vulnerable to the dreaded disease, even as experts remain clueless about the efficacy of the vaccines against the emerging variants.

While the State Government is in the midst of Unlock 2.0, people are already out on the streets in large numbers, many with a questionable conviction that having taken one or both vaccine doses provides them with protection to move around freely. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Friday said results of studies to establish whether the existing vaccines have adequate efficacy against the Delta-plus variant of SARS-CoV-2 will be out in another 10 days. On the other hand, National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) chairman Dr Narendra Kumar Arora said vaccines provide immunity against Covid-19 for up to six months to a year.

The ICMR's announcement and Dr Arora's statements can confuse the common man who is waiting to see the last of Covid-19. With that in the background, experts in Karnataka profess the 'be-vaccinated-and-hope-for-the-best' approach — and yet the coverage in the state is a poor 4.98 per cent as of Saturday, 160 days after the drive was launched.

THE PROBLEMS

Health officials say issues of supply and management, and reluctance among people have to be addressed to ensure speedy and wider coverage. In April-May, supplies were affected due to production issues and private hospitals being asked to procure vaccines directly from manufacturers.

Although production and supplies have picked up, Dr Giridhara R Babu, Head of Lifecourse Epidemiology at the Public Health Foundation of India, and member of the Covid-19 Technical Advisory Committee, says supply chain issues cannot be solved overnight. By July-end, vaccine production is expected to go up and until then, microplanning needs to be done. To solve supply issues, the state needs to plan two months in advance, he says. On June 21, during the Lasika Mela, over 10 lakh people were vaccinated in a day. "If we are able to do that, we need 90 days for the adult population to get two doses," he says. Now it is around 3 lakh a day,, Dr Babu says.

Dr B Unnikrishnan, Additional Dean and Professor, Community Medicine, Kasturba Medical College, Mangaluru, says to meet the target of vaccinating all citizens by December-end, the government must aim for 71 lakh vaccinations a day across India. "The adult population in the country is around 86.5 crore. For two doses for each person, we need 173 crore doses. For that, we need to increase production and also import vaccines. The current rate of vaccination is 25 lakh doses per day. We have only around 200 days to meet the target," he says.

Dr Madhav Prabhu, Consultant, Corona Care Unit, KLE's Prabhakar Kore Hospital, Belagavi, says two factors slowed vaccination coverage. "One, raw material for the vaccines needed to be imported and several countries, including the USA, imposed sanctions on exports. Second, both the government and citizens underestimated the severity of the second wave," he says. "While the government was involved in vaccine diplomacy, the public became complacent. This led to a less aggressive vaccination drive. When demand grew, the government could not cope, and found solace in extending the gap between two doses."

Besides, confusion persists among people, like in Mysuru, over availability of the second dose of vaccine as most of them express concerns over inability to book slots on the CoWIN portal, while public health centres refuse them when they visit for on-site registration. In Kodagu, the second dose is slow-paced due to minimum supply of vaccines and due to the extended time gap for the Covishield vaccine. Shivamogga lags behind for the same reason. Of the 13 lakh in the age group of 18-plus, the Health Department has vaccinated only five lakh so far.

BIG PICTURE

RELUCTANCE

Dr Unnikrishnan says slow-paced vaccination coverage is due to shortage and wastage of vaccines in the initial days of the drive, and reluctance among people. "The reluctance is due to misinformation and information overload on social media platforms. People were scared to take the vaccine when vaccination was started for the general public. And, when they were ready, vaccines were not available (April/May).

Dr Umesh Prabhu, president of IMA, Udupi, says false propaganda about vaccines on social media initially led to reluctance among the public.

Dr Madhav Prabhu explains the poor coverage among healthcare workers despite an early start and being the smallest segment. "There is a saying in the medical fraternity that 'Doctors are the worst patients'. Many HCWs adopted a wait-and-watch approach as the speed with which vaccines were developed raised doubts in their minds about their safety. This delayed coverage of this segment. Secondly, a lot of HCWs refused vaccination underestimating its need. It was only after the safety data was out that HCWs were convinced about the vaccine, but by then, it was already late."

However, Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar, says, "Initially, there was some hesitancy among medicos over anxiety about vaccine schedules affecting their semester exams. Now, they are eager to get vaccinated."

But there is reluctance among other segments too. In Kalaburagi, although Covid Suraksha Chakra is established through Kalyana Karnataka Regional development Board and people due for the second dose have been alerted via SMSes, up to 12,000 across segments have failed to turn up. In Vijayapura, nearly 40% and 62% of HCWs and FLWs, respectively, are yet to take the second dose.

In Gadag, misplaced notions and fears of fever/bodyaches are barriers to immunisation. Gram panchayats have started the traditional 'Dangura' system to spread awareness. Town panchayats and private doctors are creating awareness through social media with the help of Covid warriors — all of which could have been done in advance.

PIC: VINOD KUMAR T

VAX AND THE STATE

160 days after commencement of the vaccination programme on January 16, only 4.98 per cent of the target population in Karnataka has been vaccinated with both doses.

Only 31.09 per cent of health care workers (HCWs) covered with both doses

HCWs are the smallest segment with just about 16 lakh people, but coverage still couldn't cross the 50% mark

Coverage of frontline workers (FLWs) is just 1.23 per cent

Coverage of 45-plus age group is 16.31 per cent

The 18-45 age-group, the largest segment (3.25 crore people) has seen coverage of just 0.21 per cent

Total doses administered so far (1st & 2nd dose)

2,15,54,336

2,02,391

Doses administered on Saturday (June 26, 2021)

(With inputs from Ranjani Madhavan, Iffath Fathima, Divya Cutinho, Prajna G R, G Subash Chandra, Marx Tejaswi, Tushar A Majukar, Ramkrishna Badseshi, Mahesh Goudar, Prakash Samaga, Karthik K K, Arunkumar Huralimath and Raghottam Koppar)

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

'Need to ramp up tech, staff for better genomic surveillance'

CHETANA BELAGERE
@ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister and Covid-19 Task Force chairman Dr C N Ashwath Narayan acknowledged that genome sequencing is the key to identifying new strains and also to contain the pandemic. Several private players and agencies have agreed to fund more sequencing in the state. With Bengaluru being a technology hub, he spoke about how integrated softwares, telecom policies are being planned to manage the pandemic situation in the state.

The Delta and Delta-plus variants have become a cause for concern. What is the brief Karnataka has got from the Union Health Ministry on handling the situation now?
The spread of the Delta variant is localised as of now. The Central Health Ministry, through ICMR, is analyzing the variant's resistance to existing Covid vaccines. Studies are also under way about the variant's immune escape capabilities and its ability to transmit infections more aggressively.

States where Delta-plus variants have been detected were told to be careful as we are all unlocking in phases. But, as of now, there is no concern as both the patients who tested positive for the variant are recovering well.

Has the treatment and containment protocol changed after the emergence of the new variants in Karnataka?
We are pursuing our unlock plans, and we have not changed the treatment protocol. We have asked our doctors to monitor unnecessary prescription of steroids.

What is the progress in terms of genome sequencing in the state?
A lot. Other than the already existing NIMHANS and NCBS, we are setting up six genomic sequencing labs in the state. We are training microbiologists and qualified experts for this. A dashboard is being set up to integrate data from INSACOG, Arogya Setu, Co-Win and eVIN, which is the vaccine supply chain management.

There have been complaints about INSACOG labs sequencing very few samples. We have two labs in Bengaluru and our sampling has been less. What is being done to speed up the sequencing? What about the fund crunch?
We have constituted the Genomic Surveillance Committee. There is a need for ramping up the technology and workforce for better genomic surveillance. We need to sequence at least 5 pc of samples. The Rockefeller Foundation of India, CSR Funds, Central and State Government funds will soon be invested in genome sequencing.

Is there discussion or possibility of involving private players/labs in genome sequencing?
It is too early for us to talk about this. But we already have Strand Life Sciences as part of our genome sequencing committee. We will be collaborating with other major private players too soon.

Q&A

Why did Karnataka fail to implement early restrictions when cases were surging in Maharashtra in the second wave?
We had contained the first wave satisfactorily. This gave us the confidence of managing the second wave. However, the virus spread quickly. The incubation period was less and we faced challenges in setting up health infrastructure. But I can confidently say that we have done better than any other state.

The Delta-plus are increasing in neighbouring states, possibly triggering a third wave. What is being done to contain it?
We are aggressively implementing our vaccination drive. We have constituted an expert committee to recommend measures to control the third wave, increase healthcare infrastructure in government hospitals across districts, and ramp up manpower by training youth as healthcare technicians and workers. We are setting up Genomic Sequencing Labs and taking measures swiftly. There will surely be challenges as we don't know how the virus will behave. With the help of healthcare, integrated portals and technology, we should be able to manage it well.

The CM had announced Gagandeep Kang as part of the task force to ramp up vaccination drives. Has she given any suggestions? Are there any specific strategies planned?
Yes. She is giving her inputs on how to strategize and ensure that the vaccination process is speeded up. Due to procurement delays, we are kind of going slow, but we will soon be ramping it up. With the help of the private sector, we must see a good number of people vaccinated by August.

Amidst the second wave of COVID-19, students who wish to study abroad are finding it difficult to firm up their plans...
We have gone 10 steps ahead and helped students in whatever way we could. Issuing of vaccine certificates and problems around that have also been solved. There is no reason why students should feel insecure. Every problem of theirs is being addressed and we are open to hearing their concerns. I only urge more students to come forward to get themselves vaccinated.

When do you plan to reopen offline classes for college students?
We have not yet decided on a date. But right now, vaccinating them is the priority. We want to do a special drive and 20 lakh vaccines have been earmarked for college students. So, once the first dose is administered, we will decide on calling them to colleges. It will be mostly by August.

There is some buzz that there are coordination issues between you and Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar. Do you agree?
There is nothing of that sort. In fact, it is better managed now. When new committees are formed, there will obviously be some kind of unrest. But, earlier, for every issue the Health Minister had to get it approved by the CM. Now, we have a decision-making cabinet sub-committee, so there is absolutely no issue as all stakeholders come together and decisions can be taken quickly.

TAC bats for micro-planning

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Contact tracing should be done and RT-PCR conducted on all such patients' contacts. If tested positive, their samples too should be genome sequenced.

TAC members stressed the need for micro-planning and making reporting formats stringent at the state level and then sharing it with districts for regular reporting. They said that strict containment protocols should be put in place. An active influenza-like illness (ILI) survey in the community – an entire village in rural areas and around 100-metre radius in urban areas – should be done urgently, TAC said. All ILI cases should be tested with RTPCR.

"The State needs to step up epidemiological investigation of cluster cases along with concurrent genomic sequencing. Rapid response teams in each district should implement the recent guidelines on strengthening epidemiological surveillance for variants of concern," said Dr Giridhara R Babu, epidemiologist and TAC member.

Dr Manjunath C N, Director, Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, asked the government to postpone any decision to allow large gatherings. "In the earlier waves, we have noticed that the surge in Karnataka has always occurred 2-4 weeks after the spurt in Maharashtra, Kerala and Delhi," he said. He suggested that genome sequencing should be increased from 5% of samples to at least 20% to detect VOCs early. Testing should be made mandatory for those coming in from these states of concern, he said.

AFTER SLIGHT DIP, STATE REPORTS OVER 4K CASES

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

IN what could be a clear indication of people not following Covid-appropriate behaviour, Karnataka on Saturday reported about 1,000 cases more than what it recorded on Friday. While, 3,310 cases were recorded on Friday, the figure was 4,272 on Saturday.

However, the positivity rate saw a drop from 8.43% on Friday to 8.40% on Saturday.

Experts believe that the state is still at the end of the second wave. They pointed out that the increase could be because of various factors and until the cases drop to three-digit numbers, all precautionary measures need to be followed.

Dr CN Manjunath, Covid-19 state task force committee member and Director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research said, "Firstly, daily testing has increased in the state going up to 1.7 lakh. Another reason is that people have started travelling both inter-state and inter-district. We are right now in the last phase of the second wave. We had seen three digit numbers during the end of the first wave. We are yet to reach there," he said.

The state recorded 115 deaths with an increase in the mortality rate (1.22%), on Saturday. Most of the deaths reported were from Bengaluru Urban (16), Mysuru (22) and Dakshin Kannada (14).

Meanwhile, Bengaluru too saw an increase in the number of cases on Saturday compared to the previous day. The city saw 955 fresh cases on Saturday compared to 614 reported on Friday. "People have started to move around and most of them are not following Covid norms. One should not take it lightly as we are still in the second wave," said a doctor from KC General Hospital in the city.

KEEPING A WATCH

Covid -ve report must to enter Belagavi from Maha

ENS @ Belagavi

IN order to prevent the spread of the Delta Plus variant in the state, the State Government has made it mandatory for people entering Karnataka from Maharashtra to produce Covid-19 negative report starting Saturday. According to the Health Ministry, 51 cases of the new variant have been detected in 12 states, with 22 in Maharashtra.

Belagavi DC Mahantesh Hiremath took stock of the situation at the Kugnoli checkpost on the Karnataka-Maharashtra border at Nippani on Saturday. In the case of residents of Karnataka entering the state from Maharashtra, he said, they would have to undergo RT-PCR tests at the border

Earlier in the day, Deputy CM Laxman Savadi said that the government was contemplating making it mandatory for people entering the state from Maharashtra to produce Covid negative certificates. "On Sunday, I will be holding a meeting where we will decide whether to make Covid negative report mandatory to enter the state," he said.

Vax drive in Vijayapura dist

The Vjayapura district administration will launch a special vaccination drive at 104 villages located along the border, from Monday.

Lakshadweep-based filmmaker Aisha Sultana said on Saturday that the sedition case booked against her by Kavaratti police was part of an agenda. She added that the police checked the bank account details of her brother and mother as part of the investigation

A file picture of Kerala Education Minister V Sivankutty throwing an emergency lamp from the Speaker's dais in the Assembly | EXPRESS

Want to withdraw House ruckus case: Kerala govt to SC

State says accused entitled to protection under legislative privileges for their acts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE@ Kochi

THE state government has filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court seeking to withdraw the criminal case against Education Minister V Sivankutty, former higher education minister K T Jaleel, MLA, and four LDF leaders. The case pertains to the ruckus that took place in Kerala Assembly during the budget session in 2015 when opposition LDF MLAs broke chairs, snapped mikes and climbed atop tables protesting against then finance minister K M Mani. LDF leaders and former MLAs E P Jayarajan, K Ajith, C K Sadasivan and K Kunjammed are the other accused persons in the case.

The state approached the Supreme Court challenging the order of a Single Judge of the Kerala High Court dismissing the petition to end the case.

As per the prosecution case, the accused persons, who were opposition MLAs at that time, disrupted the budget presentation and climbed on to the Speaker's dais, damaged articles like the Speaker's chair, computer, mike and emergency lamp to stop late K M Mani from presenting the budget. The ruckus caused a loss of Rs 2,20,093 to the state exchequer. In the SLP, the state government argued that the accused persons are entitled to the protection of legislative privileges of their acts committed on the floor of the house.

The state also contended that the Single Judge had failed to appreciate that the incident happened on the floor of the Legislative Assembly during the budget session as a part of the protest by opposition members of the legislative assembly against the budget presentation.

Former corporator's murder: 3 more held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

COTTONPET police on Saturday arrested three more assailants in the connection of former two-time BJP corporator **Rekha Kadiresh's** murder.

The accused are Stephen Jaipal (21), Ajay Kumar (21), and Purushotham (22). A senior police officer said the accused provided support to the two prime accused who attacked Rekha outside her office in Cottonpet on June 24. "While Stephan and Ajay were assigned to provide security cover to the attackers, Purushotham tampered with the CCTVs outside her office and redirected the lens so that the incident could not be caught on camera. He was also assigned to keep a watch and alert the hit team," said a police officer.

All three accused were in the vicinity when the corporator was murdered. However, despite their efforts, the murder was caught on a CCTV in the locality and it went viral on social media, based on which the police identified the accused. "Stephan and Ajai were also seen chasing away a person who attempted to come to Rekha's rescue.

Special teams are tracking some others who were involved. So far, 42 suspects have been interrogated and five accused in total have been arrested. On Friday, cops had opened fire at two assailants who were involved in the murder. Police sources said that teams, headed by eight police inspectors, were formed to nab the assailants, soon after the murder on Thursday. The teams started gathering information about the assailants both through ground intelligence and technical assistance.

EXPRESS READ

Erosion threat to Kalpakkam N-plant?

Chennai: There is an imminent threat of erosion to nuclear power plants in Kalpakkam. The State Fisheries Department is building a groyne field at Pudupattinam village in Chengalpattu district without obtaining the mandatory Coastal Zone Regulation clearance. Pudupattinam is located on the southern end of the township at Kalpakkam, and is only a few kilometres from the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research and Madras Atomic Power Station which are critical installations undertaking projects of national importance. **ENS**

Entrance of Tirumala temple to get a facelift

Tirumala: The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams is planning to change the front elevation of the Tirumala temple. The works will likely cost ₹1 crore. At present, on one side of the main entrance of the temple has a reception and security scanning bay and the other side, the outgate, is used as employees entry with Bio-metric scanning, attendance and temple Additional Vigilance and Security Officer's office. The TTD's engineering department has prepared a design to make the two bays look similar to that of the temple architecture and was approved by the authorities. **ENS**

NCB siezes 91.5 kg drug worth ₹2 crore

Bengaluru: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Bengaluru zonal and Hyderabad sub-zonal units on Friday intercepted a minitruck at Kolar Industrial Area in Bidar and seized 91.5 kg of Alprazolam, worth Rs 2 crore in the grey market, from the vehicle, said Bengaluru NCB zonal unit Director Amit Ghawate. Alprazolam is a psychotropic substance in the Benzodiazepines class, which are anti-depressants. But the drug, banned under the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, is largely trafficked for recreational purposes worldwide. "As we found remnants of Alprazolam powder in the factory equipment, it was concluded that the consignment was manufactured at this unit," the NCB officer said. **ENS**

Act against sexual harassment plaint: NHRC to chief secy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE National Human Rights Commission has written to the chief secretary and Karnataka forest department seeking action against a sexual harassment complaint.

The commission has acted based on a complaint filed by a female employee against her supervisor at the Wildlife Conservation Society, Bengaluru division. She filed it with the Department of Women and Child Development and Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Karnataka. The commission also directed the corporation affairs ministry to take cognisance of the NGO and the issue.

In her complaint copy, she has alleged that she was sexually harassed by her supervisor, but the internal committee constituted by the company did not follow the guidelines of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace (POSH) Act. Hence, she has requested the intervention of the Commission in the matter and to take action against the NGO.

The commission took cognisance of the matter in February 2021 and directed the ministry of corporate affairs, women and child welfare department, and the district magistrate to submit an action report within six weeks from the date of issue of the letter (June 23, 2021).

In the complaint, the victim said the seniors in the firm and in New York did not act upon her complaint. Since September 2020, three internal committees were formed. "However, as many of them retired and it was found that the employers failed to perform their duties, the complaint was not dealt with as per the law," she added. The complainant also stated that she was harassed by the committee repeatedly and they have now sent her a notice to appear before the committee, failing which an ex-parte order will be passed as per POSH rule 7(5).

She said she was forced to resign from the firm.

Now all B'luru benches can hear cases physically and virtually

ENS@ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court issued a revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) permitting all benches of the Principal Bench at Bengaluru, to hear cases both physically and virtually, with effect from Monday.

However, the members of the Bar are requested to follow online mode and parties-in-persons are permitted to appear online. Parties-in-person and litigants are not allowed to enter the court complex, unless there is a specific court order to that effect. According to the SOP issued by Registrar General TG Shivashankare Gowda, advocates or parties-in-person are permitted to file cases online (e-filing.ecourts.gov.in) or physical filing.

Every person entering the court premises, including advocates and staff members, should preferably wear a proper double-face mask, including an N95 one.

Meanwhile, the Registrar General also issued a modified SOP for all district and trial courts in 29 districts, except Mysuru, with effect from Monday. Accordingly, each court should list 30 cases per day -- 15 in the forenoon session and 15 in the afternoon session -- by preparing separate cause list for both sessions, in order to reduce footfalls of advocates at a time in the court premises. The ceiling of 30 cases will not apply to bail petitions.

There will be no change in the existing SOP dated May 21, 2021, for Mysuru District and modified guidelines will not applicable to this district, the Registrar General said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby notified that **MRS. S. DHANALAKSHMI,** aged about 54 years W/o. K. Shekar, R/at No.544/593, Venkateshapura, BANGALORE – 560 045, is the full & absolute owner of the Property No. 593, Khatha No. 544, Situated at Kadugondanahalli, Bangalore North Taluk, which is morefully described in the Schedule hereunder.

It is further notified to the General Public that S. Dhanalakshmi has lost the Original Discharge Receipt dated 15/09/2015 executed by Sree Anjaneya Co-operative Bank Ltd., in favour of S. Dhanalakshmi registered as Document No. KCH-1-04093/2015-16 of Book – I Stored in C.D. No. KCHD 197 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Karachakanahalli Bangalore. The Police complaint in this regard was also lodged with K.R. Puram, Police Station, Bangalore, vide bearing Lost Report No. 110720/2020-21 dated 25/06/2021. I hereby request on behalf of S. Dhanalakshmi that if any person/s come across or find the same, he/she/they are requested to hand over the same to the below mentioned address & they will be compensated for the inconvenience caused to them for delivering the same to us.

The General Public are hereby further cautioned that if anybody deals with the Schedule Property with any person/s on the basis of the misplaced/lost document mentioned above, they are doing so at their own risk & cost and such person/s will not derive any title to the Schedule site and in such an event they have no claim of what so ever against S. Dhanalakshmi nor against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Property bearing **No. 593,** Khatha No. 544, Situated at **Kadugondanahlli Bangalore North Taluk, presently within the limits of BBMP Bangalore,** Measuring East to West 35 feet, North to South 25 feet, in all measuring 875 square feet & bounded on the:- **East by : Vacant Land; West by : Road; North by : Road &: South by : Aralappa's House:**

MR. G.N. HARISH, Advocate,
312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross, VI Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 070.

Place : BANGALORE Date : 27-06-2021

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE 1ST ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT AT BENGALURU

O.S. No. 526/2021

Between: 1. Aditi Sharma, aged about 31 years, W/o Arjun R.V., R/a Apartment Number 4184, Prestige White Meadows, Whitefield Main Road, Bengaluru-560066. ... **Plaintiff**

And: 1. Prestige Estates Projects Limited, Prestige Falcon Towers, 19, Brunton Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560025.

2. Prestige Property Management and Services, 8th Floor, Prestige Falcon Towers, 19, Brunton Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560025. ... **Defendants**

PUBLIC NOTICE

That the plaintiff above named being the owner of residential apartment bearing No. 4184, on the 18th floor, of Tower 4 at Prestige White Meadows, Whitefield Main Road, Bengaluru-560066, have filed the above suit in the representative capacity (under order 1 rule 8 CPC), for the relief of mandatory and perpetual injunction and for other reliefs against above mentioned defendants. The said suit stands posted on **30-06-2021** for appearance of the defendants. That the public, the owners, and the residents of Prestige White Meadows, situated at Whitefield, Bengaluru-560066, are hereby notified that the above suit is filed by the plaintiff, challenging arbitrary charging of common area maintenance (CAM) charges. That all those who are interested in the subject matter of the suit and those who have aggrieved by the acts of the defendants may implead themselves in the above suit and prosecute the matter. Take notice that the said case is posted on **30-06-2021** on the file of Hon'ble 1st Additional Civil Judge, Bengaluru Rural District at Bengaluru, by order of this Hon'ble Court.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on 26-06-2021.

By order of the Court, Sheristedar, Prl., Civil Judge's Court, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore.

V.N. KUMAR AND ASSOCIATES,
No. 51/2, Greenfiled, Immadihalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560066. Ph. 98454 62353, E-mail: vnksssy@yahoo.co.in

INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT CATERING TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED NUTRITION

(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India)
C.I.T. Campus, Tharamani P.O. , Chennai - 600 113.
Ph.: 044-22542029, Fax: 044-22541615
www. ihmchennai.org E-mail: ihmtaramani@gmail.com

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for **recruitment of TEACHING ASSOCIATES on Contract Basis** at this Institute.

Interested candidates can download the application form from Institute website and forward to the Principal i/c. to reach **on or before 19.07.2021.**

For details regarding essential qualification, age, experience, etc., please visit the Institute website **www.ihmchennai.org** under the head Recruitment.

Date: 23.06.2021 **Principal i/c.**

QuoteExpress

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE STARS, AND YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND ›

THEODORE ROOSEVELTCHURCHILL

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.: SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/F-/21-22/2672-74 & 2679-81 Dt: 25.06.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works.

(1) Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/21-22/EPR-02 Dated: 21.04.2021 for the work of replacing of old 11kV Switchgear panels by New MEI make, 11kV, 500 MVA, MCVCB, 31.5KA, 220V DC switchgear panel compatible for SCADA & DAS Including Civil works at 220/66/11kV R/S, HSR Layout **on partial turnkey basis.**

(2) Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/20-21/EPR-13/CALL-07 Dated:25.11.2020 for the work of replacement of existing 11 kV 25 kA/ 1200A MEGAWIN make switchgears by new 39 Nos of 11 kV, 31.5 kA MEI make switchgears at 220/66/11 kV EPIP GIS Station.

The bids will be received through e-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'e-Procurement-KPTCL' or **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 28.06.2021.** Other details can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,
Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ, South Circle, KPTCL,
AR Circle, Bengaluru. Phone/Fax: 22386686-85

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited invites Tenders vide Enquiry No.: **(1)** BESCOM/BCP-1294/2021-22/EoDB/East, **(2)** BESCOM/BCP-1295/2021-22/EoDB/North, **(3)** BESCOM/BCP-1296/2021-22/EoDB/West and **(4)** BESCOM/BCP-1297/2021-22/EoDB/South for engaging the agencies to take up the works pertaining to creating infrastructure for arranging power supply to the applications registered under EoDB and to entrust the other works related to arranging power supply other than the applications registered under EoDB under DCW basis to fulfill the requirements of the Electricity (Right of Consumers) Rule, 2020 in BESCOM jurisdiction for a period of two years on total turnkey / partial turnkey, under percentage quoting on each item basis.

Bid Documents available from: 28.06.2021 onwards to 28.07.2021, 15:00 Hrs. **Last date for Bid Submission:** 28.07.2021, 15:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document:** 29.07.2021, 15:15 Hrs.

All the payment details such as tender cost, etc. & other details shall obtained through e-procurement website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Further, bidders can avail assistance with e-procurement help desk at 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.

Sd/-
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912 **The General Manager (Elec.)**
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP **Procurement, BESCOM**

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Bank of Baroda
Ganganagar Branch
Email: vjgang@bankofbaroda.co.in
Phone: 080 – 23639339

(A Government of India undertaking)

Possession Notice

(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY) APPENDIX IV under Act- Rule 8(1)

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Now Bank Of Baroda, **Ganganagar Branch, Bangalore** under the securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sec.13(2) read with Rule-3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued Demand Notice dated **07.04.2021** calling upon the **1) M/s VRESQ Systems and Services,** No 31, 6th Cross, M C Industrial Layout, Chunchaghatta Main Road, Yelachenahalli, Bangalore – 560062 Represented by its partners **Sri Kiran S** s/o Sreedhara Shetty and **Smt Anuradha** w/o Sreedhara Shetty both residing at No 60, 2nd Cross, P & T Colony, RT Nagar, Bangalore – 560032 **(Borrowers)** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being under of **Rs 40,42,657/-** (Rupees Forty Lakhs Forty Two Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Seven Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor of the property having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/Guarantor/Owner of the property in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **24th day of June of the year 2021.**

The borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of Baroda for an amount of **Rs 40,42,657/- (Rupees Forty Lakhs Forty Two Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Seven Only)** plus interest thereon along with cost.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property located at Site No 56, Khata No 1588/1019/56, Property No 150200200600302292 carved in Sy No 217/5 the layout PARK VISTA PHASE-1 situated at Adde Vishwanathapura Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk. The layout plan has duly approved by BIAAPA Vide Order No BIAAPA/TP/LAO/48/2008-09 dated 13.07.2009 including all rights, privileges, appurtenances therto and measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet totally measuring 2400 Sq Ft and bounded on, East by: 40 Feet Road,West by: Site No 71,North by: Site No 55 and South by: Site No 57

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 24.06.2021

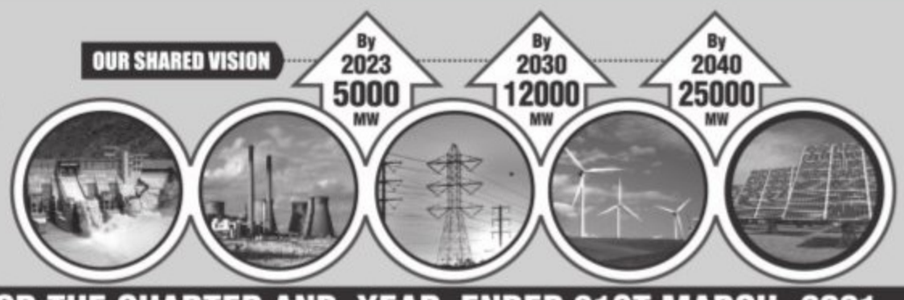
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda,
Ganganagar Branch, Bengaluru

Education. Goals. And game changing decisions. edex Every Monday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

एसजेवीएन SJVN

Exponential Growth with Powerful Endeavours

OUR SHARED VISION



EXTRACT OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2021

(₹ Lakh)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		Quarter ended		Year ended		Quarter ended		Year ended	
		31.03.2021 (Audited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)	31.03.2021 (Audited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)	31.03.2021 (Audited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)	31.03.2021 (Audited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations	46,565	54,585	2,49,083	2,70,761	46,377	54,411	2,48,539	2,70,280
2.	Profit before exceptional items, net movement in regulatory deferral account balance and tax	72,897	26,676	2,13,328	1,77,251	73,622	26,465	2,14,951	1,77,907
3.	Profit before net movement in regulatory deferral account balance and tax	72,893	26,067	1,83,984	1,76,642	73,618	25,856	1,85,247	1,77,298
4.	Profit before tax after net movement in regulatory deferral account balance	88,469	39,137	2,16,867	1,95,936	89,280	39,185	2,18,513	1,97,150
5.	Net Profit after tax from continuing operations	61,380	39,944	1,63,304	1,55,743	61,992	39,921	1,64,561	1,56,676
6.	Total Comprehensive Income comprising net profit after tax and other comprehensive income after tax	61,840	39,314	1,63,138	1,54,323	62,452	39,291	1,64,395	1,55,256
7.	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value of share ₹10/- each)	3,92,980	3,92,980	3,92,980	3,92,980	3,92,980	3,92,980	3,92,980	3,92,980
8.	Other equity excluding revaluation reserve			8,83,204	8,10,451			8,86,138	8,12,128
9.	Earnings Per Share for continuing operations (before net movement in regulatory deferral account balance) (of ₹10/- each) (not annualised) (in ₹)								
	- Basic & Diluted	1.23	0.74	3.46	3.56	1.25	0.74	3.50	3.58
10.	Earnings Per Share for continuing operations (after net movement in regulatory deferral account balance) (of ₹10/- each) (not annualised) (in ₹)								
		1.56	1.01	4.16	3.96	1.58	1.02	4.19	3.99

Notes:

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/ Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Dislosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results of the Company are available on the investor section of our website http://www.sjvn.nic.in and under Corporate Section of BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at http://www.bseindia.com & http//www.nseindia.com.
2. The Board of Directors have recommended final dividend of ₹0.40 per share (on face value of ₹10/- each) for the year 2020-21 in its meeting held on 26.06.2021. The total dividend (including interim dividend) is ₹ 2.20 per share (Previous Year: ₹ 2.20 per share) (on face value of ₹10/- each).

Place: Shimla
Dated : 26th June,2021

For and on Behalf of Board of Directors
Sd/- (Nand Lal Sharma)
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN:03495554

एसजेवीएन लिमिटेड
SJVN LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Himachal Pradesh)
A Mini Ratna & Schedule "A" PSU

CIN : L40101HP1988GOI008409
Regd. Off.: SJVN Corporate Office Complex, Shanan, Shimla - 171006, Himachal Pradesh (India)
Expediting Off.: Office Block, Tower-1, 6th Floor, NBCC Complex, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi-110023 (India)
Phone: 0177-2660075, Fax: 0177-2660071, Visit us at: www.sjvn.nic.in

"Thank you for leaving us alone but giving us enough attention to boost our egos" — Mick Jagger

FISCAL FIRES RAVAGING FAMILY BUDGETS

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India
shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com

THE angst is visible in bazaars and audibly vocal in living rooms and WhatsApp family calls. It is a common factor in RBI's surveys and voter opinion polls. The rising cost of living has led to the depletion of optimism as families struggle to make the proverbial ends meet in a landscape of pay cuts, pink slips and unemployment.

In June 2021, a one-year deposit fetches less than what a savings account did five years back. For nearly a year, consumer inflation, the measure used by RBI to define the cost of money, has been higher than returns offered by banks on deposits. Effectively — with retail inflation at 6 per cent and the rate for one year deposits at around 5 per cent — the return on hard-earned tax-paid money is negative.

Arguably, lower interest rates are necessary to spur investment. Have lower interest rates boosted investment and job creation? Evidence is less than inspiring — RBI data shows credit growth is stranded at around 6 per cent. And the most needy, small and medium enterprises, are still charged double digit interest rates.

The flip side of the equation of falling returns on savings is the painful spectre of inflation. In India's urban markets, vegetables prices are hawked at palatable per 250 grams rates rather than kilograms. Social media is replete with memes on fuel price lampooning central and state governments. It is true that inflation has gone up world over. Equally, it is necessary to parse the specific from the general. The criticality lies in what is driving inflation.

The receipts section of Budget 2021 is revealing. The mantra of equity and efficiency demands that taxes on income — corporate and personal — should outweigh taxes on consumption. In 2021, collections of indirect tax — the taxes everyone from rich-to-the-poor pays on consumption — is higher than taxes on income.

The conventional thesis about inflation states that it is about too much money chasing too few goods. In India, it is more about too many taxes chasing one segment to fund bloating expenditure. Petro products are subjected to a dozen levies by the Centre and the states — cess, royalty, customs duty, national calamity contingent duty, excise duty, service tax, the GST triumvirate CGST/IGST/SGST, octroi and entry tax.

Petro taxes deliver the highest tax mileage to governments. Consider the data points. India imports roughly $110 billion or ₹8 lakh crore worth of petroleum. In the past 12 months, the Centre and the states raked in over ₹5.6 lakh crore in revenues — that is roughly over ₹64 crore an hour. That energy, a factor of productivity, is taxed so heavily speaks volumes about the state of public finances.

Essentially, the issue is the cost of governance. In 2009-10, the Centre and states together spent ₹18.52 lakh crore — that is ₹211 crore every hour. In 2019-20, even before the pandemic and attendant expenditure visited the economy, central and state governments spent ₹66.34 lakh crore — that is ₹750 plus crore per hour. Even though the incidence of taxation has risen, the government needs to borrow to bridge the yawning gap between revenues and expenditure. This year, the government will spend ₹92 crore every hour or ₹8.09 lakh crore just to pay interest on its borrowings — that is just under 50 per cent of its tax revenues and 25 per cent of its total expenditure.

Despite all the borrowing and spending, citizens live in want for the most basic of public services. The pandemic exposed the consequence of poor allocation on health and underspending on education which has left the system broken. India spends barely 1.25 per cent of GDP on health and needs to double it. Spending on education needs to be ramped up from 2.5 per cent to 6 per cent of GDP. Even if the spend were to be hiked by just one per cent of GDP, it would add over ₹2 lakh crore to the cost-sheet.

Yes, a developing economy needs resources to fund infrastructure and spur employment. Who should pay the fair share is not about morality but pure economics. Dollar billionaires have recorded stunning gains in wealth. Companies reported record revenues and profits to bourses boosting stock indices to new highs. Yet, corporation tax collection was lower than taxes on income.

The route to sustainable growth requires interrogation of necessary and sufficient conditions. The algebraic equation of growth states that GDP = Consumption + Investment + Government Spending + Net Exports. Consumption is the spark that ignites investment. Without the critical 'C', which is doused by inflation, growth will only splutter — and corporate tax cuts or lower interest rate can at best mitigate emission.

Resource mobilisation is not just about taxation. Thirty years after liberalisation, the government continues to be the largest business house — presiding over loss-making PSUs and destruction of public wealth. Must there be a ministry for everything in the Centre and states? The fundamental principle of development in a resource-scarce economy rests on what the money is spent on and what it is not spent on.

India's potential is detained by the size and shape of the Leviathan aka government and what it costs to run it. Indians can and will harvest the demographic dividend — if the government redesigns governance and gets out of the way.

THERE IS FREEDOM, BUT NO MERCY

POINT OF VIEW

T J S GEORGE

FREEDOM is a funny thing. When it is there, we don't notice it. When it is not there, we don't notice anything else. In a country as populous as India, half the people can take their freedom for granted without knowing that the other half is denied basic freedoms. This half-half reality is the defining feature of Narendra Modiji's India.

People are getting arrested as in the days of Indira Gandhi's Emergency. And, as in those days, people know only bits and pieces of what is happening. Fear is a reality The public has no way of knowing how many poets, professors and pundits are in prison. Ordinary criminals are not seen as a threat. For those who wield power, poets are the threat.

Not surprisingly, the weapon of FIR was used frequently against Muslims. Twitter responses summed up the reaction when one said: "And then they came for the poets as mass murderers roamed free." Another put it more pungently: "Here goes fascism for you, you may call it patriotism. The lynch mob is free while the poets will be hounded."

The lynch mob was vicious when it hounded poet Varavara Rao. The world knew about it only when serious medical problems developed as a consequence of his life in jail and the authorities were forced to move him to hospital. He had spent more than seven months in Taloja Jail, the notorious "glamorous" jail in Mumbai. Why? Because he wrote lines like: "The foe fears the poet/Incarcerates him/But already the poet in his notes/Breathes among the masses."

As a result of the foe's fear, there were activists who found themselves in jail, not for breaking the law, but for offending those in power. They were men and women who came from different backgrounds and nursed different ambitions. Among them were young Delhi University students who started the brave Pinjra Tod (break the chain) movement. Devangana Kalita and Natasha Narwal were PhD scholars at Jawaharlal Nehru University. Their arrest was resented by the student community which issued a statement "appealing to all democratic-minded citizens to remain vigilant and strong in our struggles in face of this repression."

Kafeel Khan, a popular doctor, was jailed because he made fun of Amit Shah's citizenship amendment games. In Jammu and Kashmir, the Abdullahs were silenced with house arrest.

The case of Stan Swamy is, perhaps, the saddest and also the most illustrative of government high-handedness. A priest-turned-tribal activist, Swamy spent more than seven months in jail. No court ordered his imprisonment; he was not even produced before any court. Yet, he was kept in jail in inhuman conditions. When he entered prison, he "was able to eat, take a bath, read, go for a walk." Jail changed all that. "Taloja Jail has brought me to a situation where I can neither write, nor go for a walk by myself. I am requesting you to consider why and how this deterioration of myself happened." He was, subsequently, shifted to hospital on the orders of the High Court.

People are getting arrested as in the days of Indira Gandhi's Emergency. And, as in those days, people know only bits and pieces of what is happening. Fear is a reality. The public has no way of knowing how many poets, professors and pundits are in prison

How many knew about the incarceration of Delhi University Professor Hany Babu in connection with the so-called Bhima-Koregaon case. (A Pune Conclave in December 2017, which, police said, triggered violence between Dalits and upper castes. Dalit leaders were arrested. Brahmins who attacked them were not touched.)

The Bhima-Koregaon arrests brought discredit to India. More than 50 Nobel laureates, MPs and professors joined civil society organisations to send a letter to the Indian Government demanding release of those arrested. It turned out that an "unknown hacker" had planted more than 30 documents on a laptop belonging to an activist who was accused of terrorism. Among these was one that outlined plans to kill Modi.

Who plotted this? Who was trying to project Dalits as dangerous and upper castes as harmless? Who was keen to show that Modi was under assassination threat? Who calculated that talk of assassination would produce a sympathy wave in favour of Modi?

When sympathy waves do arise, how beneficial are they? Some of the world's most admired leaders were assassinated — Lincoln, Kennedy, Martin Luther King, our own Gandhiji. Were any lesson learned from these tragedies? Freedom might be a funny thing, but the message conveyed by these incidents is not funny. The message is that leaders play games with the state. All of them win in one way or another. It's the people who lose. They are at the mercy of a class of people famous for not knowing the quality of mercy.

HARDLINER 'WINS' IRAN'S PRESIDENTIAL POLL

OPINION

PINAK RANJAN CHAKRAVARTY
Former Secretary in the MEA and Ambassador, he is currently, a Visiting Fellow at ORF, Delhi

IRAN'S unique "Mullahcracy" has elected an ultraconservative cleric Ebrahim Raisi, head of the country's judiciary, as the new President. He is a protégé of the supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who is kind of a dictator for life. The election has been dubbed as rigged and seen widely as "selection", rather than an outcome of an open, free and fair nomination and voting process. The 60-year-old Raisi has no political experience and his career in the judiciary has been highly controversial. He played an important role in mass imprisonments of journalists, political activists and dual American-Iranian citizens. His role in a 1988 commission led to execution of thousands of political prisoners for which he came under American sanctions for alleged human rights abuses.

Khamenei has been in power for three decades and has functioned as a puppet master in the selection of candidates. Iran's Guardian Council, an unelected body, had earlier chosen seven candidates for the Presidential election, out of 592 applicants. Among the 40 or more women applicants, all were disallowed. The Council has the power to nominate or reject candidates, without assigning any reason, giving currency to the widespread impression that the process of candidate selection is arbitrary, undemocratic and closely controlled. Three approved candidates dropped out, leaving Raisi and three other candidates in the field. Choosing Islamic clerics as candidates has been the norm, except for Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a former President who turned out to be extra subservient to Khamenei. Outgoing President Hassan Rouhani urged Khamenei to nominate more candidates and Ahmadinejad announced that he will boycott voting. The Council's management of the election is somewhat akin to that of the Pakistan Army's management of elections which has put Imran Khan, widely regarded as a "selected" rather than elected, in the PM's chair.

Voter apathy was evident with a comparative low turnout of around 48%. An online campaign has gone on urging Iranians not to vote, in protest against Iran's rigged political system. International sanctions on Iran and the COVID pandemic have caused high inflation, unemployment, collapse in the value of the Iranian currency and extensive curtailment of basic freedoms. Most Iranians want better economic prospects and a better life. Millions of Iranians have been pushed into poverty. In the 2017 election, voter turnout was around 73%. Iranian authorities tried hard to show that there was good turnout of voters. Iranian TV showed long lines of voters waiting to cast their votes and voting time was extended to show that many voters had not been able to vote. The reality was different.

PM Narendra Modi has congratulated Iran's new president on his electoral victory and vowed to work with Raisi to strengthen diplomatic ties between the two nations. India has long-standing ties with Iran. India's investment in the Chabahar port provides a strategic gateway to Afghanistan and the North-South Transit corridor to Central Asia. Iran has deep interest in the future of Afghanistan, after the Americans leave the country. Iran remains wary about a Taliban takeover.

Raisi is backed by the Islamic hardliner lobby, including the powerful Revolutionary Guards which was unhappy with the relatively moderate and pragmatic Rouhani. Moderates and pragmatists have been on the back foot during President Trump's administration when the latter quit the nuclear deal, the JCPOA. Sanctions on oil exports badly hurt Iran's economy. India too had to reduce imports of Iranian oil to zero after getting a waiver for some months from the Trump administration. Raisi's win empowers the hardliners at a crucial time, when the Biden administration in the US, reversing Trump's policy on the nuclear deal, seeks to re-join the JCPOA. Negotiations for this purpose have begun in Geneva. Raisi is likely to be a more difficult personality and may drive a harder bargain in the ongoing negotiations with the US and western countries. Negotiations, currently postponed in view of the election, may get more difficult because the US will seek to impose curbs on Iran's missile capabilities and its nexus with Iranian-backed militias in the region which are active in Lebanon, Gaza, Yemen, Iraq and Syria.

Raisi's win empowers the hardliners at a crucial time, when the Biden administration in the US, reversing Trump's policy on the nuclear deal, seeks to re-join the JCPOA. Negotiations for this purpose have begun in Geneva. Raisi is likely to be a more difficult personality and may drive a harder bargain in the ongoing negotiations

The US will seek to curb Iran's capabilities to threaten Israel, an issue that Tehran has rejected for discussion. Iran holds the extreme position that Israel has no right to exist and wants to wipe out the Jewish state from the face of the planet. Though largely rhetorical, Israel perceives Iran as the greatest threat to itself. Israel has expressed grave concerns about Raisi, calling him the most extremist president so far. Consistently opposed to the nuclear deal, Israel has warned against reviving the deal. Naftali Bennett, the new Israeli PM, has attacked the Raisi-led government as "a regime of brutal hangmen (which) must never be allowed to have weapons of mass-destruction". Israel believes that Iran's nuclear programme is geared towards producing nuclear weapons. After President Trump re-imposed crippling sanctions following his decision to quit the nuclear deal, Iran ramped up production of enriched uranium, an essential ingredient for fabricating nuclear weapons.

The Iran-Israel contestation has become the most serious faultline in West Asia. An undeclared asymmetrical warfare has been underway between the two countries. Israel has been blamed for attacks on Iranian nuclear sites and assassinations of nuclear scientists. Iran has mounted assassination attempts on Israeli diplomats and embassies, including in Delhi. Iran's economic woes are serious enough to induce it to negotiate a new nuclear deal and ease sanctions. Easing of sanctions will also help India access Iranian oil. The sanctions have pushed Iran to collaborate more closely with China and Russia. Whether Raisi will deepen these ties or seek to negotiate a compromise with the western countries on the nuclear deal still remains unclear.

QUOTE CORNER

Everything I said about (the poll) comes from a witness, sometimes two or three witnesses. I have affidavits from them. I have video, I have audio. And instead of looking at that, they listen to false allegations that have been made by the Democrats

Rudy Giuliani, former top US federal prosecutor

This issue (immigration) cannot be reduced to a political issue. We're talking about children, we're talking about families, we're talking about suffering. And our approach has to be thoughtful and effective

Kamala Harris, US vice-president

The Americans trampled on the JCPOA and the Europeans failed to live up to their commitment. I reiterate to the US that you were committed to lifting the sanctions — come back and live up to your commitments

Ebrahim Raisi, Iran president

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Covid curfew should continue

The more we relax the more are the chances of Delta plus variant striking hard. In Andhra Pradesh, people are hopeful that night curfew would be lifted soon. But now the risk is too high and, hence, the government must continue with the curfew. As the Delta plus variant has already entered AP, it is all the more necessary to continue with the restrictions. The people, in general, are throwing caution to wind and if this cannot be prevented, it is better to impose lockdown. The first and second waves have definitely taught us a lot about the pandemic and, hence, it calls for more caution.

Govardhana Myneedu, Vijayawada

J&K needs progress

What J&K needs is an urgent five-year plan of progress and its implementation. For the next two to five years, the focus should be on all round development via tourism, enhancing the electricity production and selling the surplus to other states for profits, setting up of suitable projects of agriculture and industries among others. Peace in J&K is linked to its prosperity and progress. Delimitation can wait. There is administrators at every level be it village, district, town, city, state. The focus should be on development and implementation as the project, to begin with.

Nivriti Sreelekha P, Secunderabad

Criminal waste of money

The Tamil Nadu school education department has instructed government and aided schools not to use stationery printed with pictures of J Jayalalithaa and Edappadi K. Palaniswami. The schools have huge stocks of notebooks and school bags with pictures of the former chief ministers. Now, all these items would be replaced with fresh stocks which are yet to be received for distribution. To prevent the taxpayers' money from going down the drain, authorities could at least have stickers pasted on the images in the existing stocks. The DMK government's antipathy to the previous dispensation is understandable, but then cutting off the nose to spite the face is bad policy.

PG Menon, Chennai

Cadres with principles must

The AIADMK party expelled five members as they were found working for DMK even during the election period. Such type of people should not remain in the party and the AIADMK has taken the correct decision to expel them. It is reported they immediately went and joined the DMK party. Such people do not have any principle. Tomorrow when Congress or BJP come to power, they will join those parties. They always want to remain in the ruling side and other political principles can go for toss. All parties should be more careful in dealing with such members and they should not be given party tickets to contest elections.

V Venkitasubramanian, Coimbatore

Breather for CBSE students

The optional exams in August is indeed a breather for the students not content with their assigned marks. However, there is no certainty when the anticipated third wave of Covid will hit India. As one cannot solely hinge on optional exams, CBSE ought to come up with an alternative. Moreover, CBSE could have mulled about conducting exams in July. Furthermore, students cannot be studying the course of Class 10th and 12th for an indefinite period. The optional exams ought to be conducted as soon as possible, once the results are declared.

Aanya Singhal, Noida

Window of opportunity

Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain has given, as usual a correct and impassioned analysis of the Gupkar Alliance tete-a-tete with PM Modi. While the alliance has to make noises on restoration of Article 370 for showing the hardliners and Pakistan to stay relevant, the Centre should stay on course to ensure the integration of the region into mainstream. The time is ripe, as the world is distracted with myriad regional issues and the pandemic. The Gupkar Alliance works on the principle of my enemy's enemy is my friend.

Colonel Romy Sakharia, Kochi

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **G S Vasu**

Resident Editor (Karnataka) : **Santwana Bhattacharya** * Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 22, No. 26. RNI Reg. No. KARENG\2000\03040. Phone: 080-22866893. * Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra
PM tweets "dark days of Emergency can never be forgotten" Yes, Sir, your government making sure to remind us every single day!

Pawan Khera @Pawankhera
Modi and Sangh/BJP talking about the emergency is like Nathuram Godse criticising violence

Amit Shah @AmitShah
Dictatorial mindset led to emergency. A party which has turned into a family fief... cannot be expected to safeguard democratic principles

DIGITAL DIVIDE

Boost internet connectivity for rural lawyers, CJI asks govt

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India **N V Ramana** has written to IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad seeking steps to resolve the poor digital connectivity in rural, tribal, remote and hilly areas that is "adversely impacting the pace of justice delivery".

"I asked the MEITY and the Law minister to speak to the telecom companies to provide facilities in the taluka centres to provide uninterrupted internet for lawyers to connect to courts," Ramana said at an event organised to release a book "Anomalies in Law & Justice: Writings Related to Law & Justice" by retired Supreme Court Justice RV Raveendran.

During the event, Ramana pointed out that the issue of connectivity was brought up during a recent conference with HC Chief Justices. The CJI also said the poor connectivity in rural, tribal, remote and hilly areas is adversely impacting the pace of justice delivery and is also depriving thousands of young lawyers across the country of their livelihood. A whole generation of lawyers is being pushed out of the system due to the digital divide, said Ramana. "I thought of calling the telecom companies myself and asking them to provide boosting systems in the remote areas for better internet access. But after considering this instead of me calling them, I asked the MEITY and the law minister to speak to the telecom companies," he added.

While emphasising the digital divide that exists especially in rural areas, the CJI said if lawyers with no facilities of technology are not taken care of, they will be put off the system. *ENS*

Ayodhya should manifest finest of our traditions: PM

At review meet, UP CM gives detailed presentation of a planned township, cruise facilities on Saryu river, museum & global tourism hub

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday reviewed the development plan for Ayodhya and asserted that the temple town in UP should manifest "the finest of our traditions and the best of our developmental transformations".

Speaking at a virtual meeting, which was also attended by Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, the PM described Ayodhya as a city that is etched in the cultural consciousness of every Indian and said the human ethos of this city must be matched by futuristic infrastructure. Adityanath gave a detailed presentation of a planned township, cruise facilities on the Saryu river and a museum. It was also stated that the riverbank development is at the focus of the plans of the UP government to turn Ayodhya into a spiritual centre and tourist hub in the country.

The review meeting took place amid Modi showing keenness for visible works on the ground in Ayodhya where the temple construction project is also underway. The progress of the works in Ayodhya in line with the proposed plans of the state government to turn the city into a hub for tourists is apparently being also seen in the context of the approaching Assembly elections in the state.

"An upcoming greenfield township was discussed which includes lodging facilities for devotees, space for ashrams, maths, hotels, bhavans of various states. A tourist facilitation centre, a world-class museum will also be built," the PMO said in a statement. The state government is also providing space for various state governments to make their respective houses for residential purposes.

"The city will be developed to ensure sustainability with adequate spaces for cyclists and people on foot. Traffic management will also be done in a modern manner using smart city infrastructure," added the PMO. The Prime Minister was also informed about various upcoming and proposed infrastructure projects to improve connectivity with Ayodhya, including airport, expansion of railway station, bus station, roads and highways.

Deputy CMs Keshav Prasad Maurya, Dinesh Sharma and other ministers of the UP were also present at the meeting.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviews the Ayodhya development plan through video conferencing in New Delhi on Saturday | PTI

'Char Dham Yatra decision impractical'

VINEET UPADHYAY @ Dehradun

CALLING the state government decision of starting the Char Dham Yatra "impractical if not foolhardy", the Uttarakhand High Court has directed the government to review its decision to commence the Yatra from July 1.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice RS Chauhan and Justice Alok Verma said in its order dated June 23: "Perhaps the yatra needs to be postponed or canceled, as in the case of the Amarnath Yatra."

The bench took note of the prevailing Covid situation and the vaccination data of Rudraprayag, Chamoli and Uttarakashi. "Such a scenario would not only endanger the lives of the local population but could also spread the virus. Thus, it would be highly impractical, if not, foolhardy, to commence the Char Dham Yatra in the near future," the bench observed.

The court also referred to Mahakumbh and the infection that could have been caused by such large gatherings in May this year. "The court is of the firm opinion that a catastrophe like Covid should not be re-invited and by allowing the Char Dham Yatra," said the court.

The court in its order also mentioned how lakh of people were allowed to congregate at Har-ki-Pauri in Haridwar for a dip in the Ganga without caring about its consequence.

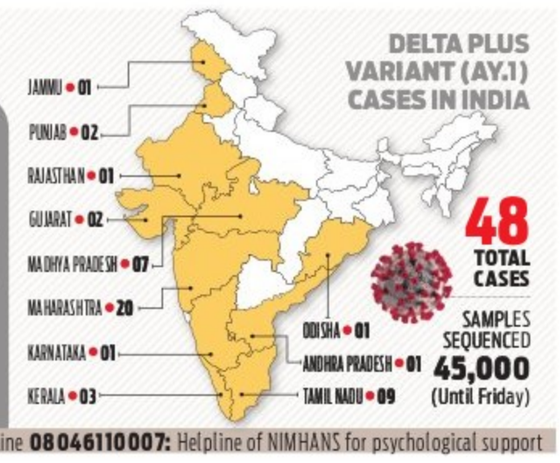
It said keeping in mind the economic loss to those attached to the yatra, the government could announce an aid package for those associated with religious tourism.

"The court is of the opinion that live-streaming from the Char Dham shrines can be done for the benefit of the people. It is imperative that the decision of the state government should be reviewed," said the court.

Meanwhile, the Uttarakhand state cabinet on Friday decided to commence the Char Dham Yatra for local pilgrims from three districts -- Rudraprayag, Chamoli and Uttarkashi -- where four shrines Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri are located.

COVID TRACKER

- 1.31% NATIONAL MORTALITY RATE
- 2.79% DAILY POSITIVITY RATE
- 96.72% NATIONAL RECOVERY RATE
- 5,95,565 Active cases
- 17,303 Net decline in cases
- 17,35,781 Tests on Friday
- 61,19,169 VACCINES GIVEN IN LAST 24 HRS



HELPLINE NUMBERS ▸ 1075: National helpline **1098:** Child helpline **14567:** Senior citizens helpline **08046110007:** Helpline of NIMHANS for psychological support

SQUATTER

NAGALAND EVICTS TWO WIDOWS FOR GOVERNOR'S BUNGALOW

SIDDHANTA MISHRA @ New Delhi

Nagaland Governor R N Ravi

THE Nagaland government had to ask two of its women employees posted in Delhi, both widows, to vacate their official quarters so that governor R N Ravi is allowed to retain his bungalow here that was allotted to him in his capacity as the chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee.

The two widows were allegedly "evicted" as the Nagaland government had to surrender two flats from its quota of property in Delhi in lieu of Ravi being allowed to retain the bungalow.

When contacted, T Mhabemo Yanthan, the governor's commissioner and secretary, did not deny the incident and said if there was any resentment over the action, it was up to the state government to deal with it.

Ravi was allotted the flat in tony New Moti Bagh in March 2015 following his appointment to the JIC earlier in 2014. He was simultaneously made the interlocutor for the talks between the government and the Naga rebel outfit, the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-IM.

But although even he retired from the intelligence panel in August 2018, he continues to occupy the premises to date. Sources said the ground on which he made a case for retaining the bungalow was that he continues to be the interlocutor for the Naga talks even after his appointment as the governor in August 2019.

Even the Nagaland government has argued that as Ravi has to often travel to Delhi in his role as the interlocutor, he should be allowed to keep the flat from the state's quota of central government property.

Interestingly, Ravi is yet to pay nearly ₹ 64 lakh towards rent for the bungalow for which he has been issued a notice under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

According to a "provisional rent report" sent to Ravi, a copy which has been accessed by this newspaper, he has been asked to appear before the Directorate of Estates, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, for a "personal hearing" on July 15 "or through a duly authorized representative" to hear the dispute over the dues.

Every state government is allotted property under the General Pool Residential Accommodation to house its employees posted in Delhi. They are mostly located in central Delhi and managed by the Directorate of Estates.

Under the GPRA rules, Nagaland is entitled to six quarters, which have been allotted to the chief minister and additional chief secretary among others. The governor is not in the list of beneficiaries as he has a separate suite reserved at the Nagaland House for his stay in the capital.

But as Ravi and the Nagaland government pressed for retaining the bungalow, the matter was referred to the Cabinet Committee on Accommodation headed by the Prime Minister The CCA in December 2018 allowed Ravi to retain the flat but on two conditions. First, the allotment had to be made from the state quota and second, the Nagaland government would have to surrender two flats in lieu of Ravi's bungalow.

EXPRESS EXCLUSIVE

The state government subsequently pressed the widows to vacate their official quarters.

As per a complaint filed by one of them, they were served several show-cause notices and even allegedly threatened by officials close to the governor. The complaint said they were told that if they don't surrender their Type-2 flats as an "adjustment" for Ravi's bungalow, they would either be suspended or transferred home. The other woman officer in a letter written to deputy chief minister Yanthungo Patton on March 31 this year pleaded that she be excluded "from being the next target for eviction of my entitled quarter in which I have been staying for the last 25 years."

"I am a widow with two children who are solely dependent on me. If I am evicted from the government accommodation allotted to me, I will not be in a position to stay in (a) rented house as I belong to a low salaried income group of employees," she wrote. But their pleas apparently fell on deaf ears and they vacated their houses.

Farmers take to the streets again

Chandigarh: Scores of protesting farmers from Punjab and Haryana on Saturday took out protest marches against the Centre's three farm laws even as police used a water cannon to disperse cultivators as they broke barricades at the Chandigarh-Mohali border. The farmers also submitted memorandums to the governors of both demanding repealing of laws. The farmers coming from Mohali, led by BKU (Rajewal Group) president Balbir Singh Rajewal, entered the city by breaking layers of police barricades on the Punjab-Chandigarh border while facing water cannons. The farmers from Haryana, led by BKU (Chaduni) leader Gurnam Singh Chaduni and SKM member Yogendra Yadav, headed towards the city from the Panchkula-Yamunanagar highway but were stopped at the border.

Abdullahs back home, call for 'statehood first'

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

ON their return to Srinagar after attending the All Party Meeting (APM) convened by PM Narendra Modi in Delhi, National Conference president, and three-time former CM **Farooq Abdullah** said there was a level of mistrust on J&K and that the onus lies on New Delhi to remove it.

His son and former CM Omar Abdullah demanded that after completion of the delimitation exercise, statehood to J&K should be restored and elections held later. "The first PM promised us a plebiscite but went back on it. Narasimha Rao promised us autonomy — in fact sky is the limit — but not independence. We had told him we never asked for independence and that we wanted autonomy. He promised us autonomy on the floor of the House. Where is that? It was never given," Abdullah told reporters at his Gupkar residence. In response to a question, the NC president said all leaders put forth their views before the PM. "It (APM) was the first step from the Centre to start the political process in J&K". Asked whether June 24 APM signaled an end to Gupkar Alliance, he asked: "Why should it be the end of the alliance?"

Omar intervened, saying, "We did not talk about anything, which is outside Gupkar Alliance's agenda. None of us said we accept August 5, 2019 decisions and let us move ahead." On Home Minister Amit Shah's roadmap on J&K – delimitation, elections and restorations of statehood, Omar said, "Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad speaking before PM's speech at APM clearly told him that we don't accept this timeline."

"Not delimitation, election & statehood.., it should be delimitation, statehood and election," he said adding, "If the election has to be conducted, then statehood should be returned and then we can talk about elections. Whenever we get a chance, we will keep stressing that".

Congress in disarray in poll-bound states, leadership in a daze

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

AS the Congress leadership is firefighting in Punjab, trouble is brewing for the party in the majority of the states going to polls in 2022. The high command is having a tough task in hand to contain infighting and dissent in state units where the party stands a chance of coming to power. Seven states are scheduled to elect new assemblies next year — Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Punjab, UP, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

After a series of meetings with Punjab CM Amarinder Singh and other state leaders and MLAs, the party is expected to announce organisational changes in the state unit early next month with a hope to end factionalism. However, it is yet to take up issues concerning other poll-bound states. If not addressed on priority basis, the party may end up meeting similar fate as seen in the recent Kerala elections, where the Left won a record second term. The Congress also fared poorly in Assam and West Bengal.

Uttarakhand: The state has never voted for an incumbent government since its formation in 2000. The factionalism-ridden Uttarakhand unit is expected to see organisational changes with former CM Harish Rawat pitching to be named CM candidate, though he has denied this. He has also asked the party high command to free him from organisational duties as AICC in-charge for Punjab so that he can focus on Uttarakhand. The party is expected to soon announce the name of new leader of opposition following the demise of Indira Hridayesh.

Navjot Singh Sidhu (right) has been attacking Punjab CM Amarinder Singh over his alleged failure to fulfill the Congress's poll promises | FILE

With the state unit also slated to get a new chief, lobbying is going on for the post.

Uttar Pradesh: The Congress is not a major player in UP though it is working to strengthen the state unit under the leadership of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. State leaders have been at loggerheads, with many of them accusing party chief Ajay Kumar Lallu of sidelining them. Jitin Prasada's switch to the BJP eight months before elections came as a jolt to the party. There are reports of more state leaders leaving before the elections.

Goa: Congress Lok Sabha MP Farncis Sardinha has gone on record to attack state chief Girish Chodankar after the party's women wing chief Pratima Coutinho joined the AAP citing weak leadership and infighting. Sardinha said the party needs to change the Goa Congress chief ahead of elections to boost its chances.

The state unit has been ailing for long and the party leadership has failed to address the issues. In 2019, 10 of 19 Congress MLAs led by leader of opposition Chandrakant Kavlekar joined the BJP.

Gujarat: In this key state, the Congress gave a tough fight to the BJP in 2017 and but later several party MLAs switched sides. Dealing with factionalism, the party is yet to appoint state chief though elections are scheduled in February- March 2022. The appointment of AICC in-charge is also pending. The post fell vacant following the demise of Rajiv Satav. According to reports, Patidar leader Hardik

Patel, who was appointed as working president, is also unhappy and is in talks with the AAP. Many state leaders feel Late Ahmed Patel's political acumen will be missed.

Himachal Pradesh: The tallest Congress leader and six-time CM Virbhadra Singh is ailing while the party is unable to contain factionalism. Party leaders agree there is a need to put up a united front.

BODO YOUTH

Plans are afoot to ensure that 10,000 Bodo youths in Assam get job in army, paramilitary forces and police in the next four years, Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) said

4 SARPANCHS BOOKED IN J&K FOR FLOUTING COVID RULES DURING PROTEST

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	33	27	Mumbai	32	27
Bhopal	33	25	Panaji	31	26
Jaipur	37	29	Patna	34	27
Amritsar	38	28	Lucknow	32	29
Chennai	31	26	Port Blair	31	27
Kolkata	32	27	Imphal	29	22
Srinagar	32	12	Chandigarh	41	30

SAD chief grilled for four hours in firing case

SIT questions former deputy CM for his role in police firing that happened in 2015; Akalis allege Rahul conspiracy

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

SHIROMANI Akali Dal president (SAD) **Sukhbir Singh Badal** was on Saturday questioned for four hours by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the 2015 Kotkapura police firing case. Badal was Punjab's deputy CM and home minister when incidents of desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib and subsequent police firing at people protesting against it took place in Faridkot in 2015.

Terming the SIT investigation as malicious, the SAD on Saturday accused Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, state unit chief Sunil Jakhar and Navjot Singh Sidhu of hatching a conspiracy to frame the party's leadership. It alleged that the trio had replaced the three-member SIT team and had already indicted former chief minister Parkash Singh Badal and Sukhbir in the Kotkapura incident.

Senior SAD leaders Bikram Singh Majithia, Balwinder Singh Bhundar, N K Sharma, Daljit Singh Cheema and others gathered at the Punjab Police Officers Institute, where Badal was being questioned, in a show of support.

Hinting at a witch-hunt against the Badals, Bhundur, Cheema and other leaders, including Prem Singh Chandumajra and Maheshinder Singh Grewal, said the SIT wanted to know who ordered the firing after the SDM concerned had already admitted that he had ordered it. "It's like the SIT asking the SDM not to disclose that he had ordered the firing because it wanted to blame the Badal family for the same. It is clear that the SIT has become a puppet in the hands of the Gandhi family," they said.

The leaders said it was shocking that the PCC chief had recently stated that he had explained the entire issue to Rahul Gandhi and that the latter had told CM Amarinder Singh to frame the Badals. The leaders said while Jakhar and Sidhu had committed contempt of court, charges should be pressed against Gandhi for becoming an abettor to an illegal act. The SAD leaders also demanded that the role of the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party in the sacrilege and police firing incidents be probed.

SIDHU HITS OUT AT SUKHBIR BADAL

Congress MLA Navjot Singh Sidhu who had been attacking his party's government for allegedly delaying justice in the Faridkot sacrilege and Kotkapura police firing cases hit out at SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal for not bringing justice to the victims in the case during his tenure. Sidhu also targeted Punjab DGP Dinkar Gupta asking him what action has been taken against Sukhbir's brother-in-law and former minister Bikram Singh Majithia for his involvement in a multi-crore drug scandal.

Deshmukh skips ED summons, his two close aides arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mumbai

FORMER Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh didn't appear before the ED on Saturday despite the agency summoning him in connection with the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) case over alleged ₹100 crore bribery charges against him. Deshmukh through his lawyer has sought more time to appear before the ED.

This comes hours after the agency arrested the former minister's two close aides in connection with the case.

Earlier in the day, the ED arrested Deshmukh's personal secretary Sanjeev Palande and personal assistant Kundan Shinde after questioning them for around nine hours.

The central probe agency alleged that the two men were not cooperating with it during questioning that was being held at its office in Mumbai. ED has sought their custody for custodial interrogation.

Both Sanjeev Palande and Kundan Shinde were brought to the ED office after a raid at their premises in Mumbai by the ED on Friday. The ED had also raided Anil Deshmukh's premises in Mumbai and Nagpur.

The ED case against Deshmukh and others is borne out after the CBI first carried out a preliminary inquiry followed by a regular case being filed on the orders of the Bombay High Court.

The court had asked the agency to look into allegations of bribery made against Deshmukh by former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh. Deshmukh, who had resigned from his post in April following the allegations, has denied any wrongdoing.

NCP state unit president Jayant Patil alleged that the central government was "blatantly misusing" central agencies against its political opponents.

"The action against former Maharashtra home minister is clearly a part of vendetta politics. The BJP failed to form government in Maharashtra therefore it is intimating political rivals. Despite no evidence in the case, first the CBI and now the ED is working on the behest of central government. We condemn this action in strong words," Patil told media persons.

Deshmukh's personal assistant Kundan Shinde (in pink) being taken to a court by ED officials in Mumbai on Saturday | PTI

RAJASTHAN IN-FIGHTING

Raje loyalist gets notice as saffron camp broils in feud

RAJESH ASNANI @Jaipur

THE BJP is finally getting tough over the long drawn-out rebellion by loyalists of former chief minister Vasundhra Raje. One of Raje's close supporters and former minister Rohitash Sharma, who has claimed that Raje should be the CM face of BJP in the 2023 elections in Rajasthan, has been issued a notice and asked to explain his recent statements within 15 days. The BJP's state unit claims Sharma's remarks are against the party's interest.

The notice by BJP state general secretary Bhajan Lal Sharma has been issued on the basis of some statements made by the Raje loyalist after BJP's Alwar North district committee meeting on June 1. The notice mentions Rohitash Sharma's statement that Rajasthan BJP leaders are running the party just by sitting in their offices. He had also claimed that the opposition in Rajasthan has become like the Congress party at the Centre.

In recent weeks, several Raje loyalists have not only demanded that she be projected as the BJP's CM face for the next elections but have also been critical of the way the state unit is being run and about the sidelining of Raje. During his recent visit to Rajasthan, the BJP incharge Arun Singh had warned of disciplinary action against party leaders who make irresponsible statements on public platforms.

Satish Poonia, party's state chief from the RSS camp, who is considered Raje's arch rival, had earlier said leaders should be careful about what they say at public forums.

BJP to win 17 district panchayats in UP unopposed, SP alleges foul play

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Lucknow

WITH no candidate from other parties submitting nominations on Saturday — the last day of filing papers — BJP nominees are set to get elected unopposed to Zila Panchayat chairperson posts in at least 17 out of the 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh.

The BJP candidates are assured of victory in CM Yogi Adityanath's native district Gorakhpur, Ghaziabad, Lalitpur, Moradabad, Bulandshahar, Saharanpur, Amroha, Gonda, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Meerut, Mau, Agra, Sharwasti, Balrampur and Banda.

Former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav, however, alleged that local authorities at the behest of BJP government stopped SP candidates from filing nominations in many districts, including CM's native district Gorakhpur.

"Let the BJP get their candidates elected unopposed through the use of official machinery, but the people of the state will ensure that the BJP isn't able to win in 2022 Assembly polls," Yadav tweeted.

Meanwhile, in a significant development, the Mayawati-led BSP's candidates abstained from the nomination process, despite being in decisive numbers in some districts, consequently helping the BJP candidates to win unopposed.

In Mau district, where BSP had maximum seven elected district panchayat members and the BJP merely had two district panchayat members, BJP candidate Manoj Rai is set to be elected unopposed as district panchayat chairperson, as the BSP didn't field any of its district panchayat members as the candidate for the July 3 chairperson polls.

In Ghaziabad district also, the BSP didn't field its candidate, despite having significant numbers of district panchayat members, consequently paving way for the BJP candidate to win unopposed.

In Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency Varanasi, where only BJP and SP candidates are in fray, the BJP and SP candidates have demanded rejection of rival candidate's nomination papers, citing technical flaws in the papers.

Let the BJP get their candidates elected unopposed through using official machinery, but the people will ensure that the BJP isn't able to win in 2022 Assembly polls

Akhilesh Yadav, SP chief

Act together for drugs-free India, says PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for realising the vision of a drugs-free India, stating drugs bring "darkness, destruction and devastation". Speaking on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the PM applauded all those fighting the country's war against drug abuse

"Today, on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, I laud all those working at the grassroots to eliminate the menace of drugs from our society. Every such effort to save lives is vital. After all, drugs bring with it darkness, destruction and devastation."

Urging all to stay away from drugs, Modi said addiction is neither cool nor a style statement. He also shared an old episode of *Mann Ki Baat* which contained many aspects of overcoming the drugs menace.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also spoke on the issue. "I applaud the efforts of our @narcoticsbureau personnel towards eliminating the drug menace in India," he tweeted.

The theme of the day this year is 'Share Drug Facts to Save Lives'.

On 2-day parole, Akhil Gogoi visits ailing mom

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guwahati

AFTER spending over a year and a half in captivity, Assam's jailed activist-cum-politician Akhil Gogoi on Saturday walked to a brief freedom lasting just 48 hours.

The Raijor Dal MLA was granted two-day parole by a special court of the NIA as he desired to meet his wife and Covid-recovered son in Guwahati and 84-year-old mother in Jorhat district.

Hundreds of locals gathered at his Jorhat residence when a police team escorted Gogoi to the place on Saturday. He will be escorted back to Guwahati on Sunday.

Gogoi (45) was arrested by the police in December 2019 for allegedly inciting violence during the statewide protests against the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act. At least five people had lost their lives during the protests.

A few days after his arrest from Jorhat, the NIA had taken his custody in connection with another case registered with the Chandmari police station in Guwahati for his alleged nexus with the CPI (Maoist).

Bengal BJP to oppose early bypolls citing Covid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kolkata

THE BJP's Bengal unit has decided to oppose Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's demand to hold early Assembly bypolls in the state. Even though the saffron camp cited the pandemic situation for objecting to bypolls, its intention seems to be an attempt to prevent Mamata from becoming an MLA within six months of her swearing-in as the CM.

The BJP is aiming at Mamata's resignation, forcing her to choose someone else from the TMC, who has won Assembly elections, as the chief minister of Bengal. Mamata, who lost in Nandigram to BJP's Suvendu Adhikari, recently said the Election Commission should conduct bypolls in seven Assembly seats as early as early as possible and at once.

Ironically, it was only the BJP which had opposed Mamata's demand for clubbing of last three phases of the recently held Assembly elections even as the country was grappling with the second wave of pandemic.

Meanwhile, many BJP functionaries felt that opposing bypolls may trigger a negative reaction from people while some others said creating hindrances in the way to Mamata's election to the Assembly would pile pressure on her.

"The party has decided to use Covid pandemic as the same tool that Mamata had used when she demanded clubbing of last three phases. During the Assembly elections, she expressed concern over risking people's life and now our leaders are citing the same. But our top-rung leaders addressed rallies when the second wave of pandemic hit the country. The decision to oppose bypolls may draw negative reaction," said a senior BJP leader in the state.

BJP's general secretary Sayantan Basu said Mamata was ready to risk the lives of the people of Bengal by demanding bypolls at a time when the threat of third wave was approaching.

"There is no need for by-elections now. She has to quit. She will be no longer the CM. We will oppose her demand for holding by-elections as early as possible," said Basu.

Mamata has decided to contest from her old turf Bhowanipore. Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, who got elected from Bhowanipore, already resigned and is likely to contest from Khardah, North 24 Parganas, as the TMC's eleted MLA died of Covid-19.

ANTI-DRUG DRIVE

Integrity helps Assam youth don dream uniform in the presence of CM

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

A job in the police department eluded Borsing Bey for a long time until his integrity helped fulfil that dream.

Bey, an Assam Home Guard personnel, was on Saturday appointed as constable in the police department. The appointment letter was handed over to him by none other than Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in the presence of a host of ministers, senior police officials and other dignitaries.

Bey had spurned a huge bribe from drug dealers and helped seize drugs valued ₹12 crore in the international black market from a Guwahati-bound bus in Karbi Anglong recently. Three peddlers, including two women from Tamil Nadu, were arrested in this connection.

Home Guards are paid meagre amount and Sarma said Bey could easily have fallen for the "temptation". The CM said that during every drive against contraband, the biggest challenge is "temptation". He said there have been several cases when even high-ranking officials became its victims. If the jawans had "negotiated", they could have easily made ₹1-2 crore in the instance.

"We know how much the Home Guard jawans earn and the kind of life they lead. It's a big thing for a Home Guard jawan to stay away from the temptation of money. Borsing Bey was already going through frustration as he failed to clear interviews for a job in the police department. I congratulate him on his integrity and courage," Sarma said.

A cheerful Bey said Sarma and Director General of Police Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta helped fulfil his dream. "I will keep working the way I did in the past," he said.

Meanwhile, Sarma said the state government would consider formulating a policy to give out-of-turn promotions to lower-ranked cops for an "exemplary" act on duty.

The Assam Police seized drugs worth ₹135 crore over the past 40-45 days since Sarma had donned the CM's mantle.

Congratulating the police force on its recent successes against drug peddlers, the CM said, "Unfortunately, many groups which assert themselves as revolutionaries are involved in drug-smuggling. Some people have built an empire of drugs in the state."

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma hands over appointment letter to Borsing Bey | PTI

Unvaccinated shoppers to be tested in malls

In order to contain the spread of Covid-19 and encourage more people to take vaccine against the pandemic, the district administration in Srinagar has decided to conduct Covid test of all unvaccinated people visiting shops and malls in the city. Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad said all unvaccinated persons visiting shops and malls would have to undergo Covid-19 testing in the interest of larger public so that no infected person puts the lives of others at risk. The administration would be deploying sample collection teams in shopping complexes and malls to conduct the test. People having vaccination certificate in hard or soft form shall be given priority entry at all business establishments, government offices, etc.

FAYAZ WANI
Our correspondent in Jammu and Kashmir
fayazwani123@gmail.com

SRINAGAR DIARY

New govt recruits must furnish phone details of 5 years

The J&K government has amended its service rules making it mandatory for new recruits to submit details of mobile phone numbers which they used in last five years; information about in-laws, if any; registration number of vehicles owned and used and details of loans and financial liabilities for verification by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of J&K Police within two months. After these details are received, the CID shall conduct verification of character and antecedents of the recruits and forward it to the requisitioning authority within one month. In case of receipt of an adverse report and on confirmation thereof by the Screening Committee, the appointment shall stand cancelled without any notice.

12 parks, gardens taken over from J&K Bank

The Floriculture, Gardens and Parks Department of the J&K government has taken over 12 gardens and parks spread over 120 acres of land for maintenance and development from tthe Jammu and Kashmir Bank. These parks and gardens were earlier being looked after by J&K Bank Limited under its CSR scheme. Some these parks were prime spots of tourist attraction and included Iqbal park and Badamwari garden in Srinagar. Of the 12 parks, seven are located in different areas Anantnag district.

First survey of nomadic population

The J&K government has initiated first enumeration and survey of migratory tribal population in the higher reaches in order to formulate a plan for extending benefits for their socio-economic uplift. The survey will serve as a baseline for allocation of funds for different schemes planned to cover the migratory population. A list of 14 major migratory routes have been identified and district teams will suggest facilities required for the population. A common format developed for the survey includes details related to migration route, educational status, health and animal husbandry facilities, etc.

4,00,000
people face starvation due to the back-to-back droughts in southern Madagascar, says UN World Food Programme

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	34	22	LC	Los Angeles	29	20	SNY
Colombo	29	26	TDS	Melbourne	14	6	LR
Dhaka	32	27	TDS	Moscow	31	21	TDS
Dubai	43	32	SNY	New York	32	23	LC
Houston	31	24	TDS	Singapore	30	26	TDS
Istanbul	30	21	SNY	Toronto	27	21	LC
London	22	16	LR	Washington	33	23	LC

Ex-cop Chauvin gets 22.5 years in prison for George Floyd's death

One of the longest prison terms imposed on a police officer in the killing of a Black person

MINNEAPOLIS

FORMER Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin was sentenced Friday to 22.5 years in prison for the murder of George Floyd, whose dying gasps under Chauvin's knee led to the biggest outcry against racial injustice in the US in generations. The punishment, which came after Chauvin broke his yearlong silence to offer condolences to the Floyd family and express hope that they eventually have 'some peace of mind', is one of the longest prison terms ever imposed on a US police officer in the killing of a Black person.

Still, Floyd family members and others were disappointed. The sentence fell short of the 30 years prosecutors had requested. And with good behavior, Chauvin, 45, could get out on parole after serving two-thirds of his sentence, or about 15 years. "Just because it's the most time doesn't mean it's enough time," said Nekima Levy Armstrong, a Minneapolis protest leader.

People celebrate the sentencing of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis, Minnesota | AFP

Judge Peter Cahill went beyond the 12 1/2-year sentence prescribed under state guidelines, citing Chauvin's 'abuse of a position of trust and authority and also the particular cruelty' shown to Floyd.

Floyd family attorney Ben Crump said the family had gotten "some measure of accountability" but is hoping Chauvin gets the maximum at his upcoming federal civil rights trial. Crump said this was the longest sentence a police officer has ever received in Minnesota. But he added: "Real justice in America will be Black men and Black women and people of color who will not have to fear being killed by the police just because the color of their skin. That would be real justice."

Outside the courthouse, a crowd of about 50 people clasped hands or placed them on each other's shoulders. The reaction was subdued as people debated whether the sentence was long enough. Some cursed in disgust. At George Floyd Square, as the intersection where Floyd was pinned to the pavement is now known, members of the crowd broke into applause, and several said, "We'll take it."

Chauvin was immediately led back to prison. He showed little emotion when the judge pronounced the sentence.

The fired white officer was convicted in April of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter for pressing his knee against Floyd's neck for up to 9.5 minutes as the 46-year-old man gasped that he couldn't breathe and went limp on May 25, 2020.

Bystander video of Floyd's arrest on suspicion of passing a counterfeit $20 bill at a corner store prompted protests around the world and led to scattered violence in Minneapolis and beyond, as well as demands for overhauling police departments. *AP*

Six soldiers killed, 15 UN peacekeepers hurt in Mali

BAMAKO

SIX MALIAN soldiers were killed in a raid in the centre of the war-torn Sahel state, in a violent day which also saw 15 United Nations peacekeepers wounded in a car-bomb attack further north.

The UN said on Twitter that an evacuation was under way after a car bomb struck a temporary base near Tarkint, in the lawless north of Mali.

German Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer said 12 of the peacekeepers were German and that three were seriously injured.

Two of the three were in a stable condition, she said in a statement, while one has undergone surgery. All of the wounded have been evacuated by helicopter, Kramp-Karrenbauer added.

One Belgian soldier was also injured in the attack, according to a Belgian defence ministry statement. *AFP*

18 students dead, 16 injured in China martial arts school Fire

BEIJING

AT LEAST 18 people were killed and 16 injured when a fire broke out at a martial arts school in central China in the early hours of Friday, according to the local government.

Official state news agency Xinhua reported that all victims were boarding pupils, while local media said they were aged between seven and 16. The fire had been extinguished and authorities were investigating the cause of the blaze, a statement from the Zhecheng county government in Henan province, said.

Four local officials including the county party secretary were fired over the incident, reported the Henan Daily, a local state-backed newspaper, on Saturday.

Two more suspects were arrested in addition to the school's manager Chen Lin, the Henan Daily said.

There were 34 boarding students on the premises when the fire broke out, according to government staff quoted by Beijing Toutiao News.

Those hurt — four of whom had severe injuries — were rushed to a local hospital, where an unnamed doctor told local media they were "doing everything they could" to save them. The cause of the fire was still unclear.

An official confirmed to AFP that the school was the Zhenxing Martial Arts Centre. Local media reports described it as a "comprehensive martial arts training institution" that aimed to "strengthen the body through morality and martial arts".

An online listing for the school advertised hour-long classes each day for a range of martial arts disciplines and said the school "recruits boarding students year-round", but offered no further details. Provincial party chief Lou Yangsheng told local media that the blaze was a "profound lesson". The school had not gone through the fire safety auditing process required for martial arts training institutions, as the building had originally been a privately built house intended for other purposes, Xinhua reported Friday. *AFP*

Biden assures Afghanistan leaders of help from US even after troop pullout

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden has told his Afghan counterpart Ashraf Ghani that the people of Afghanistan "are going to have to decide their future" but assured him that the US is going to "stick with you" even after the American troops leave the war-torn nation by September.

Biden, who had his first face-to-face meeting with Ashraf Ghani at the White House on Friday said America's partnership with the South Asian nation is going to be sustained.

"The partnership between Afghanistan and the US is not ending. It's going to be sustained," Biden told reporters in the Oval Office of the White House in a joint media appearance with President Ghani and the CEO Abdullah Abdullah.

American troops may be leaving, but support for Afghanistan is not ending in terms of helping maintain their military as well as economic and political support, Biden said.

"Afghans are going to have to decide their future. But it won't be for lack of us being a help. But we're going to stick with you. And we're going to do our best to see to it you have the tools you need," the United State's president assured the top Afghan leaders ahead of the US troop withdrawal before September 11.

Afghans are going to have to decide their future. But we're going to stick with you. And we're going to do our best to see to it you have the tools you need

Joe Biden, US President

Ghani, sitting alongside Biden, said Afghanistan was grateful for the blood and treasure America had spilled during the past two decades to defend his country, which now finds itself facing direct battle against the Taliban militants.

Biden has announced that the American military presence in Afghanistan will end by September 11 of this year, the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 coordinated suicide attacks against the US by al-Qaida, which was based in Afghanistan.

The meeting between Biden and the Afghan leaders comes as Taliban fighters have captured dozens of key districts in Afghanistan in a recent offensive. The visiting Afghan leaders also held meetings with top officials of the Biden administration including Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, CIA Director William Burns and the top Congressional leadership. PTI

Can Fin Homes Ltd

Can Fin Homes Ltd (Sponsor: CANARA BANK)
Kanakapura Road Branch

No. 58, 6th cross, Manjunathnagara, Raghuvanahalli, Bangalore 560 062
Phone : 080-29751565/7625079172
e-mail Id: kanakapura@canfinhomes.com
CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI Act) read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (Rules)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., under SARFAESI Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3, issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrowers / guarantors listed hereunder (hereinafter referred to as the "said Borrowers"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the Notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of Notice, as per details given below.

The said Notices have been returned undelivered by the postal authorities / have not been duly acknowledged by the borrowers. Hence the Company by way of abundant caution is effecting this publication of the demand notice (as per the provisions of Rule 3 (1)). The undersigned has, therefore, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known addresses of the said Borrowers, as per the said Act.

As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to the Company by the respective parties as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of Borrowers/ Co- Borrowers with address	Amount claimed as per Demand Notice *	Description of the Secured Asset	Date of NPA
1	**1.Borrower: Subramani G R. S/o. Ramu G.H**. No 101, 1st Floor, D.S Max Saga, Thurahalli, Uttarahalli, Bangalore-560061. **2.Co-Borrower : Girija M S, Subramani G R.** W/o. No 101, 1st Floor, D.s Max Saga, Thurahalli, Uttarahalli, Bangalore-560061.	**Rs. 14,38,224/- as on 31.03.2021**	Site No 46,Katha No 57/1,Situated At Chikkakallasandra Village,1st Main.1st Cross, Canara Bank Colony,Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-560061. Area Bounded By:- East To West-15 Sq Feet And North To South-32 Sq Feet Total Measuring 480 Sq Feet.East By :Site No 46/1,West By : Site No 45,North By : Road,South By : Canara Bank Colony.	28-02-2021
2	**Borrower:Ramalingappa R S/o Ramappa,** No 652/2, Jyothi Meadows, 2nd Cross, Flat No G-3,1st Floor, L B Shasthri Nagara, Bangalore-560017. 2.co-borrower : **Prema kumari B W/o Rama lingappa,** No 652/2, Jyothi Meadows, 2nd Cross, Flat No G-3,1st Floor, L B Shasthri Nagara, Bangalore-560017.	**Rs.8,15,634/- as on 31.03.2021**	Site No.32,V.P.Katha No.441, Property No 441, Sy No 14/2, Situated at Chunchana kuppe Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-562130. Area Bounded By:-East to West: 30 Sq.feet and North to South:20 Sq feet total measuring 600 Sq Feet.East By: Site No 29,West By : Road, North By: Site No 33, South By : Site No 31.	30-11-2020

**Payable with further interest at contractual rates as agreed from the date mentioned above till date of payment.*

You are hereby called upon to pay the above said amount with contracted rate of interest thereon within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the undersigned will be constrained to Initiate action under SARFAESI Act to enforce the aforesaidsecurity. Further, the attention of borrowers / guarantors is invited to provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available to them to redeem the secured assets.

Date : 26.06.2021
Place : Bangalore

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Limited

Can Fin Homes Ltd

Can Fin Homes Ltd (Sponsor: CANARA BANK)
JAYANAGAR BRANCH

No. 69, (Old No 35), 12th Main, Jayanagar, Bangalore -560011
Ph: 080-26630501/41625644, Mob: 7625079101
E-mail Id: jayanagar@canfinhomes.com
CIN:L85110KA1987PLC008699

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable Property) [Rule 8 (1)]

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **Can Fin Homes Ltd.,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers under the said Act and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices on the below mentioned dates calling upon the following borrowers/co-borrowers/Guarantor/s to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and interest upto the date of final payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices

The borrowers as well as guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described here in below against each borrower in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002 on below mentioned dates herein after.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are here by cautioned not to deal with the following properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of **Can Fin Homes Ltd (CFHL)** for the amounts mentioned against each property, which is payable with further interest thereon until payment in full till date of realization.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrowers	Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Possession Taken	Date of Demand Notice	Amount Outstanding
1	**Mr.Prashanth T Kale & Mrs.Trupti C Jadhav,** residing Flat No.401, 4th Floor, Lakshmi Residency , 9th cross, Kaveri Layout,GM Palya, Bangalore-560075	All that Piece & Parcel of the Flat bearing No.401,Fourth Floor of the Apartment Building Known as "LAKSHMI RESIDENCY" and Having super built up area of 600 sq.ft, & undivided share of 200 square feet, along with One car Parking, Property bearing Site No.17, presently Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Katha No.157/2, situated at 9thcross,Byrasandra,CV Raman Nagar, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk.	**23.06.2021**	05/04/2021	Housing Loan Rs.16,00,000/- and Rs.4,85,000/-
2	**Mr.Govindarasan K & Mrs.Suguna,** residing New No.41, LOD No.8, 3rd Cross, Opp to Saint Anthony Church, Sacred Heart Road, TC Palya, K R Puram Bangalore -560036	All that Piece & Parcel of the Immovable Property Site No.57 &58, Katha No.8/2, Situated at Doddanagamangala Village, Assessed under Konappana Agrahara Panchayat Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West: 40ft, North to South.60 ft, Totally Measuring. 2400 Sq Ft and Bounded on: East by : Road, North by : Site No.56. West by : Site No.53 & 54. South by : Passage (Road)	**22.06.2021**	05/04/2021	Rs. 19,50,000/-
3	**Mr.Sendil G & Mrs. V Hemalatha** residing No.678/1581 BB Road Opp SBT Ganesh Tiles company Yelahanka, Bangalore -560064.	All that piece & parcel of the Property bearing Site No.21 Yelahanka CMC Serial No.264/100/21, Situated at Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore north Taluk, measuring East to West: 40ft, North to South.30 ft, Totally Measuring. 1200 Square Feet and Bounded on: East by: 25 Feet Road. North by: Site No.22, West by: Private Property, South by: Main Road.	**22.06.2021**	05/04/2021	Rs. 21,00,000/-
4	**Mr.Venkateshappa R & Mrs.Kavitha,** residing at No.230, 4th Cross Bhovi colony, near Venkateshwara temple, Kalkere Main Road, Rammurthy Nagar Bangalore-560016,	All that Piece & Parcel of Property bearing residential Site No.36, ward No.26 at Bhovi colony, Kowdenahalli @ Ramamurthy Nagara, K R Puram Hobli Bangalore East Taluk, Now Comes under BBMP Limits Bangalore, measuring East to West 26feet, north to south 27feet, total measuring 702 Sq. ft, Building Thereon and bounded on the: East by : Venkatamma's House. North by: Girijama's house. West by: Main Road, South by: Poojari Venkatappa's house.	**23.06.2021**	05/04/2021	Rs. 15,80,000/-
5	**Mr.Rameshappa D & Mrs.Yasodha V,** residing at No. 1232, Old No.240, near Railway station, Bidarahalli Hobli, Kadugodi, Bangalore-560067	All Property No.240, Katha No.1232, old katha No.240, Situated at Kadugodi Village, Bidarahalli Hobli Bangalore East Taluk,measuring East to West 35 feet, north to south 35 feet, total measuring 1225 Sq. ft, Building Thereon and bounded on the : East by : Road, North by: Property belongs to Gowramma, West by: Remaining portion of same property, South by: Road.	**23.06.2021**	01/08/2018	Rs. 23,11,371/-
6	**Mr.Harisha N & Mr.Lokesh Gowda** residing No.30, 11th Main , 13th Cross,5th Block Jayanagar Bangalore -560041.	All that piece & parcel of Property bearing residential Site no 17, Property Bearing Old Katha No 156, New Katha No 290, Situated at Hulimangala Village Jigani Hobli Anekal Taluk Bangalore, measuring East to West 40 feet, north to south 30 feet, total measuring 1200 Sq. ft, Building Thereon and bounded on the: East by : 30 Feet Road. North by: Private Property. West by: Site No 24 ,South by: Site No 18.	**22.06.2021**	05/04/2021	Rs. 44,50,000/-
7	**Mr. Arunkumar K M & Mrs. Johnsi Sathya A,** residing No.10/92. 3rd cross 3rd Main, Srinivas Nagar, Bangalore -560085	All that Piece & Parcel of Property bearing residential New Municipal No.39 (Old No.10/92), ward No.54 , PID No. 54-267-39 under BBMP Limit, 3rd Main Road, Srinivasnagar, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore, measuring East to West 44 feet, North to South 24.6feet, total measuring 1082.40 Sq. ft, and building thereon and bounded on the: East by : Road, North by: Site No 78, West by:Site No 91, South by: Road.	**25.06.2021**	05/04/2021	Rs. 8,10,000/-
8	**Mr.Syed Zeeshan Anjom,** residing at No.526, , 10th Cross, 29th Main , BTM Layout , 2nd Stage Bangalore-560076	All that piece and parcel of the residential Flat No.2(G-2),Ground Floor of the Apartment known as "AASHIANA", having super built up area of 936 sq.ft, & undivided share of 200 sq feet, alongwith One car Parking No.2, situated at Property bearing No.83, Old Khata No.38/1/83, present BBMP Khatha No.1072/1275/ 1251/38/1/83, J R Layout, Haralur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk	**25.06.2021**	05/04/2021	Rs. 33,80,000/-

Date :26.06.2021
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- **Authorised Officer**
Can Fin Homes Ltd.,

Your Guide to Spicy Living INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

CHANGE OF NAME OF COMPANY

We, **Mr. KRISHNA SOMAYAJI K & Mrs. K. SUBHADRA,** Managing Directors of **SOMAYAJI TECHNOLABS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED,** having office at No. 102, Eden Park, 20, Vittal Malya Road, Bangalore-560 001, have changed the name of the company to **SOMAYAJI TECHSERV INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED,** vide CIN No. U72200KA2013PTC069350 dated: 24.02.2021 and Affidavit dated: 21.06.2021 sworn to before Diwakar N Kagawad, Notary Public (Govt. of India).

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Chennai Division (Mechanical Branch)

GEM Bid No. GEM / 2021 / B / 1307156 Dated: 24.06.2021

Divisional Railway Manager / Mechanical Branch / Chennai Division, Chennai - 600 003 invites ONLINE tenders for the following work as per tender notice given in the e-tender Portal **www.gem.gov.in**. The tenderer(s) / contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for Mechanical works in Chennai division, need to get enrolled in the GEM portal **www.gem.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted. Description: **Contract for outsourcing of Welding/Gas cutting activities in C&W depot/JTJ for a period of 2 years**; Location: **ROH/ JTJ Shed;** Advertised tender Value: **₹ 1,44,58,990/-**; Earnest money deposit: **Not applicable**; Similar nature of work: **Applicable**; Period of Completion: **2 Years;** Tender Closing Date and Time: **05.07.2021 at 19.00 Hrs.;** Details of value of tender is given in GeM portal **www.gem.gov.in**. For details bid submission please refer to web portal **www.gem.gov.in**.

Assistant Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Chennai- 600 003

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client proposes to purchase the property described in the Schedule from its **owner Mr. Shaukath Hussain Assadi S/o Mr.T.M.Shaffi Assadi,** aged about 61 years, residing at "ASHIANA", M-15, Sector -10, LIC Colony, HAL 3rd Stage, Jeevan Bheema Nagar, Bangalore-560075. **Represented by his Power of Attorney Mr.Udayachandra Suvarna,** aged about 63 years, S/o Late Damodar R.Suvarna, Residing at No.51/10, Charter Resort, Richmond Road, Bangalore-560025 any persons objecting for the proposed purchase or having any Right in the Schedule Property may Lodge their Objections/Claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within seven days from the date of this publication and objections/claims received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property as if there are no claimants/objections.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that the piece and parcel of the Vacant Site No.2613,HAL 2nd Stage, Bangalore, now in the 74th ward of Bangalore Mahanagara Palike .Measuring:- East to West :12.80+12.95/2 Metres and North to South:- 9.14 Meters. Totally measuring 117.72 Sq.Metres of the Property Constructed of Ground, First Floor with RCC Roof and Vetrified Tiles Flooring, Totally 1350 Sq feet Builtup Area.

And BOUNDED ON:-

East by : Road.
West by : Site No.2585.
North by : Site No.2614.
South by : Site No.2612.

RAJA .B,
ADVOCATE & CONSULTANT
Off.# SGA ADVOCATES, No.13, 30th Main, 2nd Stage, Behind Kuvempunagra Bus Terminal, BTM Layout, Bangalore-560068.
Email: sgaadv19@gmail.com.
Mobile No: 9886006917.
Date: 27/06/2021. Bangalore

QuoteExpress

THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED

MARK TWAIN

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

Suchita D/O Bagepalli Venkatesh born on 08.06.1996 residing at 667,I Main Road,Rajajinagar 2nd Stage , Bangalore have changed my name to Suchita Venkatesh videaffidavit dated 25.06.2021 at Bangalore.
CL00428407

NAME DECLARATION

I, **MOHAMMED JAFFER** S/o AFROZ, Aged about 28 years (DOB-13/01/1993), Resident at No.3697, 9th Main Road, 10th Cross, Kaveri Nagar, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bengaluru 560070.

I submit that my father name is wrongly mentioned in my education record and all my Official Documents as **Mohammed Afroz** instead of **AFROZ** and the same has been rectified wide order dated 7th Jan 2019 passed by the honourable City Civil Court (CCH-19) in OS Number 2019/2019. And hence I hereby declare that my Father name is **AFROZ.**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Abhishek Kumar, Son of Mr. Chandra Dev Upadhyay, aged about 29 years, R/at #37/A, Shivpur Shahbajganj, Padri Bazar, Rotari Colony, Gorakhpur, PIN : 273014, Uttar Pradesh, India, I have changed my name from **'ABHISHEK KUMAR'** to **'ABHISHEK UPADHYAY'.** Vide affidavit dated 26.06.2021, Sworn before Advocate & Notary Indira S.S, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SURESH C, S/o. Chinnappa, aged 25 Years R/a Balagaranahally, Neralur Panchayath, Anekal Taluk declare that my name is wrongly entered as **NARESH K** in Aadhar Card, after giving necessary documents my name is rectified as **SURESH C** hence this affidavit to produce before competant authority before Notary C.N.Sreekanta Sastry dtd 25/06/21 at Anekal Bangalore District.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **BIBI AYESHA,** Residing at No. 1016, 1st Main Road, KHB Main Road, Rankanagar, R.T. Nagar Post, Bangalore-560032 have changed my name to **AYESHA FAROQUI** vide Affidavit Dated 25-06-2021, before the Notary Sivakumara .M.N, Bangalore.

grooms

GROOM WANTED

Swetha suresh, age 25 Hindu pulaya (SC) from Kerala, Army officer (MNS) looking for suitable partner from any Hindu religion. Contact only Def officers /parents from TN and Kerala.

Mob : 8940212861 9474198089

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

START EXPORT BUSINESS without investment. Earn monthly lakh. SMS / whatsapp Name address 98421 16924.
CL00428775

Education. Goals. And game changing decisions. edex Every Monday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

$603.93 bn was India's forex reserve as of June 18, according to RBI data. This was a decline of $4.148 billion over the previous week

FOUR YEARS OF GST: THE GOOD, BAD AND UGLY

There is a need to bring structural changes for a more stable GST regime

ANURADHA SHUKLA @New Delhi

ON Friday, Tamil Nadu Finance Minister P Thiaga Rajan sparked a controversy, when he said that the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was faulty and that there is a need to re-tool and restructure it.

"Sensible people may agree or disagree on a design or system or platform, but logic says you keep re-evaluating based on the outcomes. Have you achieved the goals you wanted? Have you avoided the failures you feared? If the answer to both those is 'no,' logical people would say 're-tool, re-structure'," Rajan said while addressing a virtual meeting organised by IIM-B's Alumni Association, Chennai Chapter on 'Tamil Nadu: The Road Ahead'.

The criticism may sound "strongly worded" but as the GST regime is set to complete four years this week, even its strongest supporters agree that the GST regime is still a work in progress and there is a need for many structural changes for a more stable and hassle-free system.

Good intent, but marred by tech glitches & design flaws

Introduced as one of the biggest economic reforms by the BJP-led Modi government, the GST kicked off with the promise to streamline taxation and compliance burden.

Experts also claimed that in many ways, it has streamlined the process. "Based on the one nation one tax ideology, GST has helped in reducing the cascading effect of tax considerably. Also, multiplicity of compliances under various indirect taxes has been reduced. Hence, introduction of GST in India has brought in efficiencies in indirect tax compliance, incidence and reduced the number of indirect tax authorities that a taxpayer needed to interact with," said Saloni Roy, senior director, Deloitte India.

Another positive is the concept of e-invoicing which seeks to ensure greater transparency in supplier-receiver transactions. The introduction of e-way bill coupled with the crackdown on fake invoicing has helped in bringing in a substantial portion of GST revenues, which were either being evaded or under-reported, in order.

However, the technical glitches, difficulty in claiming input tax credit and ever changing rules make compliance a cumbersome business.

"Input Tax Credit (ITC) is an area which has certain limitations that need to be addressed. The GST regime sought to have a seamless flow of ITC, however, conditions for availing ITC being stringent, many taxpayers lost out on ITC. Also, taxpayers lose their ITC due to non-reporting or mistakes by their suppliers," Roy said.

That apart, taxpayers are also complaining about the imposing an arbitrary monetary limit on availing input tax credit through Rule 36(4) and mandating that a certain percentage of GST has to be paid in cash. These laws are making life difficult for even the most honest taxpayers.

In the initial years of GST rollout, former finance minister Arun Jaitley had promised to reduce the tax slabs to three by merging 12 per cent and 18 per cent slabs. However, it remains a distant reality after so many years. Falling revenue amid disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has continuously delayed the reform, leaving a large number of items in high tax slabs.

Lack of clarity on many rules is also leading to various litigation and different interpretations (of the same laws) by Advanced Ruling Authorities in different states.

"The government needs to establish GST Tribunals to reduce litigation timelines and the pressure on courts. The state authorities for Advance Ruling should ideally also have an independent jurist member, apart from a representative from the tax department," Roy suggests.

Centre Vs States

When the states had agreed to the GST implementation, they knew they had to let go of some share of their taxes. But the Centre promised to compensate the state with revenue foregone for the first five years after implementation of GST.

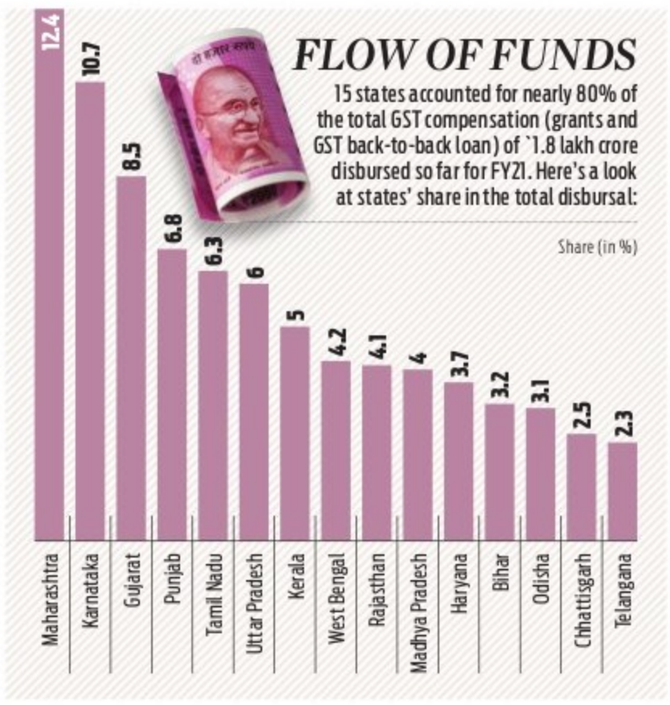
The nationwide lockdown, however, intensified the problem of revenue shortfall for states with the Centre not paying up the dues on time. Also with coffers drying up and with social and health spending going up, states are growing disenchanted with the system.

"We knew we were losing our independence of taxation as States. Already all direct taxation was Centre, the indirect was partially with us and the Centre. We went in with a lot of trepidation and fear and some hope of outcomes that would give long term and widespread benefit," Rajan said, adding that five years down the line, fears have grown immensely while the benefits have not even been realised by 20-30 per cent. This largely sums up the frustration faced by many states.

Meanwhile, the meetings of the GST Council are not as frequent as they were earlier, if the recent incidents are anything to go by, and it often end up with disagreement, fight and strong letters and statements. States have also accused the Centre of cornering a substantial portion of tax in forms of cess. Last year, the GST Council had borrowed ₹1.1 lakh crore to pay the states in order to make up for the shortfall. Still, ₹63,000 crore is pending which the Centre intends to pay this year.

Road ahead

As the GST council is likely to meet soon to decide on this year's compensation, the opposition-ruled state governments are likely to seek an extension of GST compensation on their revenues beyond June 2022, when the five-year window ends. The Fifteenth finance commission, in its latest report, has addressed many issues including large shortfall in collections as compared to original forecast, high volatility in collections, accumulation of large integrated GST credit, glitches in invoice and input tax matching, and delay in refunds. The Commission also observed that the continuing dependence of states on compensation from the central government for making up for the shortfall in revenue is a concern. While at the same time it suggested that the structural implications of GST for low consumption states need to be considered.



'Fulfilling every consumer's need biggest challenge in digitising banks'

THE biggest challenge with bringing in digital transformation in the Indian banking sector is fulfilling the various needs of a diverse population, said **Abhishek Rungta**, Founder and CEO of INT. (Indus Net Technologies).

"Challenges are multifold because India, on the map, might look like a country but it's more of a continent with different cultures. We have different needs, types of people, professions that they are into. The challenge is to stay relevant and create products that all of them can use and benefit from. To make it relevant is the biggest challenge," he added, while in conversation with *The New Indian Express*' Editorial Director **Prabhu Chawla** and Senior Journalist and Author **Kaveree Bamzai** during TNIE's webinar series E-Expressions, which aired on Saturday.

Abhishek was speaking on the topic 'Digital Transformation in the Banking Sector'.

So, how can we make it relevant? Abhishek responded, "We have adopted a lot of our banking systems and our methodologies from the West and we have to understand what the different segments of our population need. What do women need? Even women have different needs compared to men in banking. Forget about regional diversity, the same household might have two different people who will have completely separate needs. You need to go into the long tail of product creation and have to deep-dive and understand where the needs are, what they are, are they being fulfilled by the existing product sets. If not, then invent products by engaging with them. The whole discovery process has to be there. The biggest change that is happening right now is the arrival of Fintech. Fintech is this beautiful layer on top of banking, basically trying to solve a problem until the last mile. It will ensure that the long tail of the consumers is being served properly."

Abhishek also pointed out that there are two basic issues when it comes to digitisation and getting people into making the shift. "First is the trust issue. In India, there has been a lot of financial fraud, starting from chit funds to other scams. People who have already burnt their hands in these will be apprehensive about trusting a FinTech organisation or any other company. How the communication is done and how the governance is done will be a challenge the regulators will have to think about.

Second, literacy is a problem. A lot of people don't know how banking works, they are open to being defrauded, not by organisations but by phishing and hacking attacks. People don't know how to protect their money. The challenge is that if they lose money by putting it in one of these banks, the blame would be on the entire community of banks and Fintech," he explained.

Further delving into the issue, Prabhu Chawla asked, "The Indian economy is still a 50 per cent cash economy, how would we transform that? We talk of financial inclusion in digitisation, but most of the country is not included in that, people still like to earn in cash or conduct most of their transactions in cash." To this Abhishek said, "This is exactly the problem India faces. The challenge here is to understand the friction areas these people face when they are dealing with cash. Then, we have to link problems to the solutions that digitisation brings. You can open a Jan Dhan account but the usage is in the hands of the janta. The base has been set, now you have to explain to them the options. For people to move from cash to banks, they need offerings that actually solve their problems. As you rightly said, if a person earns money in his town and he wants to move this to his family, he still goes and gives this to someone who carries the cash to the village. I am sure there is friction, there is a risk element, there might have been fraud.

So, how do we solve this? By creating low-cost instruments that are safer. When the money is in their bank, they can use it for transactions, money has to be linked with some kind of payment mechanism that is on their mobile phone."

He further spoke about the challenges involved in payments through phones. "The challenge is people have basic phones, but not everyone has smartphones. We are trying, in our own way, to facilitate such transactions through basic phones. So, this problem has to be solved, make payments through your basic phones, you have to make sure that the money that is going out is safe. The whole ecosystem has to be built. There's a huge responsibility on technology companies to make it work," said Abhishek.

"Trust and literacy are challenges yet to be solved. It cannot be solved overnight, you cannot make the entire country literate on digital transactions, it will take its own time. India has done a phenomenal job on the infrastructure for banking and digital money. Traditional banks cannot stay away from this, they should also create products as they already have that last mile access," he said.

EXPRESS READ

RBI caps continuous tenure of UCB MDs to 15 years

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India has limited the maximum continued term of managing directors and whole time directors of urban cooperative banks (UCBs) to 15 years in a series of steps taken to ensure professional management of these institutions that have often been found undertaking non-transparent activities right at the top. There must be a 3-year cooling period before reappointment.

Fuel on a roll, rates increased by 35 paise/ltr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

Global cues pushed fuel prices to increase again across the country on Saturday, adding more misery for the common man already struggling with rising food prices amidst shrinking income. The retail prices of both petrol and diesel rose by 35 paise per litre — the steepest in recent times — on Saturday to touch new high of ₹98.11 and ₹88.65 per litre, respectively, in Delhi. The increase took rates across the country to fresh high. In Mumbai, for instance, petrol now comes at ₹104.24 per litre. Diesel price also increased to reach ₹96.13 a litre, the highest among metros. Saturday's hike — the 30th increase in prices since May 4 — saw Tamil Nadu become the latest state to see petrol cross ₹100-a- litre mark.

Solar power projects face the heat as key raw material prices rise sharply

JONATHAN ANANDA @Chennai

MANY solar power projects that signed low-tariff agreements with distributors over the past year are likely to face the squeeze over the next few quarters due to a reversal in solar module price trends.

While solar module prices, which generally account for over 50 per cent of project cost, had been trending lower over the five years leading up to March 2020, this trajectory has changed since the beginning of this year. If sustained, this price rise is also likely to result in an increase in solar power tariffs that had fallen to record lows last year.

According to industry executives and experts, module prices are on the up because the value of critical raw materials used in their manufacture have spiked sharply since the beginning of this year, driven by a mix of both supply and demand factors. Key materials such as polysilicon, aluminum, and copper, form more than 50 per cent of module costs, and the prices of all three have spiked in 2021. For polysilicon in particular, used heavily in the solar module and electronics industries, prices have risen from around $11 per kilogram in January 2021 to over $28 currently.

Solar modules have, in turn, risen around 10 per cent in value over the past six months.

For the developers of over 12 Giga Watt (GW) worth of solar projects signed since March 2020, with tariff obligations of below ₹2.5 per unit, this is set to significantly reduce returns. "These projects had factored in the price trend of solar modules which had fallen by more than 10 per cent compounded on-year over the 5 year period ending March 2020," Crisil said in a note earlier this week. "However, since these projects are nearing the module procurement phase, a reverse price trend is visible with module prices spiking to $0.24/watt in June 2021-a good 10 per cent increase since January 2021".

Ankit Hakhu, Director, Crisil, noted that the landed cost of solar modules will likely be higher by over 10 per cent in rupee terms, and project costs by 6-7 per cent in 2021.

"This will ultimately squeeze equity returns by 200 bps, down from a typical range of 10-12 per cent for bid out solar projects having lower tariffs," he said. The nature of solar project development also puts developers at risk, since modules are usually bought almost a year after the bids are won.

Ratings agency ICRA had made a similar warning earlier this month, noting that the sharp increase in raw materials would affect the debt servicing of project developers.

"If sustained, (the price rise) is likely to moderate the debt service coverage metrics for the project developers by about 12-14 basis points," said Girishkumar Kadam, senior vice-president and co-group head-corporate ratings. And if module prices remain high, future solar bids are also likely to become relatively expensive. "Tariffs could jump by 10-15 paise per unit in order to factor higher module costs and to maintain returns of 10-12 per cent," warned Varun Marwaha, Associate Director, Crisil.

Business & Beyond

Biz meet for women entrepreneurs held

A women entrepreneurs' meet was held by Indian Oil, in collaboration with Bengal Chamber of Commerce. Addressing the event, Partha Ghosh, executive director and refinery head, Haldia Refinery said: "Women's participation in energy entrepreneurship has the potential to address several of the Sustainable Development Goals, therby providing them avenues of higher income."

Balmer Lawrie celebrates 7th International Yoga Day

The 7th International Day of Yoga was celebrated across all units of Balmer Lawrie. A webinar on benefits of yoga and meditation was organised and employees were encouraged to participate in the virtual programs on the Common Yoga Protocol organised by MoPNG and Ministry of Ayush.

LIC unveils web portal for group biz ops

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has launched a new centralized web-based IT platform, e-PGS, for its group business operations. LIC chairman M R Kumar inaugurated the project e-PGS at the central office, Mumbai in the presence of managing directors Vipin Anand, Mukesh Gupta, Raj Kumar and S Mohanty. Rakesh Sharma, MD& CEO of IDBI Bank received the first digital receipt, generated on the new IT platform.

LIC Card, IDBI unveils Shagun gift card

LIC Cards Services, along with IDBI Bank, has launched a contactless prepaid gift card called 'Shagun' on the RuPay platform. "The purpose of this card is to expand the gift card market by replacing the cash to plastic market and to e-gift cards in future and also to contribute towards digital India," LIC said in a statement. For now, the card has been launched for internal use of LIC and its subsidiaries but in coming months it will also be rolled out for the public.

EIL CMD awarded Order of Polar Star

RK Sabharwal, CMD, Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) has been honoured with the highest civilian award of Mongolia "The Order of Polar Star". The award was given to recognise the outstanding contribution made by him towards the establishment of the first-ever oil refinery in Mongolia. This project is the harbinger of energy and economic independence of Mongolia. EIL secured the contract for providing project management consultancy services for the 1.5 MMTPA Grassroot refinery project.

JSPL organises Covid-19 vaccination drive

Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) has launched a vaccination drive at its Angul steel making facilities, which is expected to cover the entire work force and their families. "This mass vaccination drive would strengthen our fight to defeat Covid-19 pandemic," Angul plant head and JSPL ED Hridayeshwar Jha said.

GRSE announces commissioning of 250-tonne Goliath Crane

Defense PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) said that the new 250-tonne Goliath Crane has been commissioned at the main works unit of the company, entailing a cost of about ₹155 crore. It is a vital asset for construction and repair of a wide range of modern and strategic warships, the defense shipbuilder said.

Manu & Saurabh bag silver in mixed event

Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker clinched the silver medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the ISSF Shooting World Cup here on Saturday. Already assured of a silver medal, the Indian duo was on par with Russia's Vitalina Batsarashkina and Artem Chernousov at 12-12 before losing the last two series to go down 12-16.

KASPER GOALBERG

Kasper Dolberg scores the second goal against Wales on Saturday | AFP

AMSTERDAM: Denmark marked the 29th anniversary of their greatest triumph by marching on to the quarter-finals of Euro 2020 on Saturday as Kasper Dolberg scored twice in an emphatic 4-0 win over Wales before an exultant travelling support in Amsterdam. In the city where Christian Eriksen made his name, it was Dolberg — another ex-Ajax player — who opened the scoring with a fizzing strike in the 27th minute. That came after Wales had started well. Denmark never looked back and Dolberg struck again before Joakim Maehle and Martin Braithwaite added more goals.

BATTLE FOR SUPREMACY

After a big defeat against Germany and a nervy draw against France, holders Portugal narrowly managed to avoid an early exit. Now, they'll face a massive last-16 battle against in-form Belgium. Netherlands, a side with a 100 per cent record, will be keen to gain some revenge against Czech Republic. A glance at Sunday matches...

LIVE ON SONY SPORTS NETWORK

Netherlands vs Czech Republic | 9:30 PM | BUDAPEST

Netherlands have been on song so far, having won all their group matches. Wearing the armband in Virgil van Dijk's absence, Gini Wijnaldum has been a key player at the heart of the midfield and is leading the scoring chart for Frank de Boer's side with 3 goals. Their last-16 rivals, Czech Republic, won just one of their three group contests and barely managed to reach this stage. However, the Czechs have been a bit of a bogey team for Oranje. It was the Czechs who had a big hand in the Dutch team's absence from the 2016 edition, beating them twice in the qualifiers. In 2004, the Czechs had made posted a remarkable comeback (down 0-2 at one point) to win 3-2 during the group stage.

8 Netherlands finished as top-scorers with 8 goals in the group stage.

KEY PLAYERS: GINI WIJNALDUM (NETHERLANDS), PATRIK SCHICK (CZECH REPUBLIC)

Belgium vs Portugal | 12:30 AM | SEVILLE

Apart from a minor scare against Denmark (who scored first during their group tie), Belgium's campaign has been smooth sailing. Kevin de Bruyne, who missed the opener, has been doing what he does best, dictating the game. Romelu Lukaku, the target man, has been scoring for fun while the rest have been efficient too. Portugal, on the other hand, squeezed into the knockouts with just one win. With Cristiano Ronaldo leading the attack, goals have not been an issue for Fernando Santos' men. However, they have been leaky at the back, having conceded 6 goals so far. If that theme continues, they could have a long night against a hungry Belgium side.

11 Belgium are on a 11-match (9W, 2D; includes 2 friendlies) unbeaten streak.

KEY PLAYERS: ROMELU LUKAKU (BELGIUM), CRISTIANO RONALDO (PORTUGAL)

Wais after tough journey, ready to live Oly dreams

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

BADREDDIN Wais was waiting, twiddling his thumbs. He had already finished his interview with Thomas Bach but didn't dare hope. Not yet, anyway. So when Bach read out his name during a Zoom gathering last month, Wais was overcome with emotion. He managed a thank you before crying mid conversation.

Several years after fleeing Syria and resettling in Switzerland as a refugee, Wais couldn't help but cry. He was, after all, going to the Olympics, sport's greatest and grandest theatre. In Tokyo, Wais will take part in the men's individual time trial at the Fuji International Speedway on July 28.

Wais' story has been documented on these pages but it's still worth remembering. Born in Aleppo in January 1991, his first brush with a big ticket international event was the individual time trial event at the junior World Championships in Moscow in 2009. Even though Syria wasn't exactly known for its pedigree in cycling, Wais wanted to bring the culture of cycling to the country.

However, war broke out soon after. It left Wais with no option but to flee so he travelled a route that's become all too familiar in recent times: Damascus to Lausanne via Lebanon, Turkey and Greece. He is one among scores to have been on a boat from Turkey to Greece. Ultimately, the Swiss government gave him the necessary papers for him to stay in Lausanne. From 2014 to 2017, he put his cycling career on hold to get his life back to a semblance of normalcy.

At the individual time trial event in the 2017 World Championships, he finished 60th. A big break came when he spoke to Gonzalo Barrio, the project manager of the refugee athletes programme. Barrio liked what he saw so Wais was one among 50 athletes to have secured a 'current 50 refugee athlete scholarship holders' two years ago. Getting your name onto this list is the first step towards bring part of the contingent at the Olympics.

He says his level has improved a lot in the last year or so. "For sure my performance has improved in the last 12 months," he tells this daily. "I was more than a hour behind Filippo Ganna (World champion and favourite to win Olympic gold in individual time trial). Last year I was six minutes behind him." That's true. At the 2020 World Championships, Wais' time was six minutes and 25 seconds slower than Ganna's.

It's been a hard, cruel and unforgiving journey. And Wais' story is really the story of 24 other 'athlete scholarship holders' who will represent the refugee Olympic team at the Tokyo Games.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Sajan breaches A historic mark

ASHIM SUNAM @ Bengaluru

SAJAN Prakash created history by becoming the first Indian ever to achieve the Olympic Qualifying Time (A cut). It means he has now secured a direct berth to Tokyo. He achieved the feat in the 200m butterfly event at the Sette Colli Trophy in Rome, Italy, with a timing of 1:56.38s (A time was 1:56.48) on Saturday. It is pertinent to mention that the competition was the last opportunity for him to make the direct cut with the qualification period ending on Sunday.

"It is a great (day). Indian swimmers can also now think of getting the 'A' cut as well. Sajan deserved it. The amount of hard work he has put in over the last five years and also if you consider the Covid-19 pandemic from last year, this is a great thing. And I think he will go faster than this at the Olympics. He had come close in Belgrade too." said Sajan's coach Pradeep Kumar. Even the Swimming Federation of India secretary general Monal Chokshi was left speechless with his stunning performance.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Familiar name behind Shaili's success

INDRANEEL DAS @ Chennai

THE last time he won a gold with his ward was in 2008. He was coaching long jumper, Anju Bobby George, who by that time had almost every medal to her name except the Olympics.

Thirteen years later, there was a hint of emotion when another ward jumped to gold in the ongoing inter-state athletics championships at Patiala. Junior champion Shaili Singh, 17, set a new junior mark of 6.48m on Saturday. Coach Robert Bobby George was quietly absorbing the moment. There was jubilation in his voice. "She has the talent and we are honing it," said Robert Bobby. "We were expecting it sooner or later." Interestingly, with this, national records in junior and senior (Anju's 6.83m) are against his name. Shaili broke the earlier record of 6.30 set by Priyanka Kerketta in 2017. The distance is the joint-best in the world in the U-18 category and joint-7th — both records shared with Chinese jumper Yaqing Zhaoking. This season's best jump in the U-20 category has been 6.56m by Italian Larissa Lapichina.

The lunge towards the record has its own twisty tale. Shaili has not gone home since December last year despite lockdown. When the second lockdown was announced and the hostel at the Bengaluru SAI centre was shut, she had to shift to Anju's house in Kengeri. Since mid-April, Shaili had been training there. The only drawback was that there was no pit nor was there a synthetic track for her to run and jump.

"We had to dig a pit but running on grass is a little tricky," said Robert. "Since it's grass, it's slippery and while jumping there's a possibility of you to slip more. It gets worse if it rains." However, he is hoping she would be allowed to train at SAI centre before the Junior World Championships in August. Anju, sitting miles away in Bengaluru, was closely following Shaili's jumps.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Neeraj 3rd with best effort of 86.79m

NEW DELHI: Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished third with an effort of 86.79m in Kuortane Games in Finland on Saturday. Chopra began with 83.21m and then sent the iron spear to a distance of 86.79m in the his second attempt. Germany's Johannes Vetter won the event with a best throw of 93.59m.

Bengaluru to host I-League qualifiers

BENGALURU: Bengaluru is set to host the I-League qualifiers in September, it was announced on Saturday. The qualifiers will comprise 10 teams and only one team will make it to the I-League, where 13 teams will finally battle it out for the title.

COPA AMERICA

Ecuador face Brazil test

Brazil have already wrapped up top spot in Group B. Neymar & Co will be determined to maintain their 100% record when they take on Ecuador in their last group stage match. Ecuador can't afford to lose this contest. If they lose, they might be heading home soon. Bottom-placed Venezuela and Peru will lock horns in the other match.

Fixtures: (Monday @ 2:30 am, IST): Brazil vs Ecuador, Venezuela vs Peru.

India women eye win in ODIs

VIVEK KRISHNAN @ Chennai

AFTER the high of salvaging a draw from a seemingly hopeless situation in the one-off Test, Indian women's team focus will now firmly shift towards one-day cricket. Over the course of the next week, they have three ODIs against defending 50-over World Cup champions England to help them gauge where they stand in the format around eight months away from the World Cup in New Zealand.

Captain Mithali Raj — who completed 22 years in international cricket on Saturday — knows that the conditions in England will be very different to the pitches back home, but she admitted that the batters will have to be more positive in their outlook. "The biggest thing we want from the team is a very strong mindset. We can't really compare the SA series with this one as the conditions will be very different. But yes, we are looking to have a more positivein our batting. We have been working on our fielding as well. Our preparations for the World Cup have started."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring it to the NOTICE of General Public, that **MRS. VARALAKSHMI**, Aged about 44 years, W/o. Palani P, R/at No. 01, I Cross, Nagappa Street, Muneshwara Block, Palace Guttahalli, Malleshwaram, BANGALORE 560 003, is intending to put up construction over the property bearing EWS 211 Present Municipal No. 211/36 with PID No. 21-103-36 situated at Agrahara Dasarahalli, KHB Colony, 2nd Stage, 5th Cross Road, Basaveswara Nagar, Bangalore, having acquired the same from her previous owner/vendor/N. Hemavathi & others under sale deed dated 30/07/2020 registered as Document No. RJN-1-01336/2020-21 of Book I Stored in C.D. No. RJND 700 in the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore, by availing construction loan from **LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**, BANGALORE.

Mrs. Varalakshmi further expresses that previous owner/Hemavathi N., had lodged a complaint before the Magadi Road Police Station, Bangalore, vide Reference No. POP 1425190600208 dated 22/07/2019 with respect to LOST of original document/s viz.,

(a) Original Intimation of Allotment dated 02/05/1981 in the name of A. Saroja

(b) Possession Certificate dated 16/11/1999

(c) Deed of Absolute Sale dated 23/02/2000 executed by A. Saroja in favour of Shashidhara N.S., registered as Document No. 5799/1999-00 of Book I Volume No. 2313 at pages 161 to 67 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore.

(d) Absolute Sale Dead dated 21/10/2002 executed by Shashidhar N.S., in favour of B. Narendra Babu registered as Document No. 03929/2002-03 of Book I Stored in C.D. No.10 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore.

(e) Death Certificate of R. Somashekar

It is further submitted by over sight in the compaint it was mentioned that sale dated 09/12/2004 executed by B Narendra Babu in favour of R Somashekar registered as document No. RJN-1-06048/2004-05 CD No. RJND60 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore thought it was available.

Any person or person/s, Government of Karnataka, Bank/s /Financial Institution/s /Private Financier/s /Co-operative Society Ltd./ Company/ etc., having /asserting any right title or interest/claims/ NOC/ etc., are intending to oppose in availing/disbursing Construction Loan from LIC Housing Financial Limited., by mortgaging the Schedule Property, in any manner may file their objections to the undersigned within **TEN (10) Days** from the Publication of Notice hereof, along with Documentary Proof, where after no such claims will be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF the Property bearing Old No. **EWS 211,** Later Municipal No. 211/36 with PID No. 21-103-36 situated at **Agrahara Dasarahalli, Karnataka Housing Board Colony, 2nd Stage, 5th Cross Road, Basaveswaranagar, Bangalore,** Old Division No. 16, Old Ward No. 21, Present BBMP Ward No. 105, measuring East to West 26 feet or 7.92 meters, North to South 18 feet or 5.49 meters, in all measuring 468 square feet along with 411 square RCC Roofed Building, wall constructed with cement & bricks, preparation of doors and windows made by hone wood with basic amenities & bounded on the:-

East by : Property No. 215; West by : Road; North by : Property No. 212 &; South by : Property No. 105:

MR. G.N. HARISH, Advocate,
312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross, VI Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 070.
Place : BANGALORE Date : 27-06-2021

Your Guide to Spicy living
INDULGE
Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

HELPLINE
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
For subscriptions & Supply related Complaints
Call / WhatsApp
9886143555
7 AM - 4 PM MONDAY to SATURDAY

QuoteExpress
IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING
WINSTON CHURCHILL

LOST

I, **Smt.THULASAMMA,** W/o, Late. Gangadhara, R\a, No.137/4, 6th Main, 3rd Cross, Pipeline Road East, Kasthuriba Nagar, Bangalore-560026, do hereby stating that, I have Lost Document in respect of Original Sale Deed dated:21.04.1975, pertaining to Western Portion of Property bearing **No. 137/4, PID No-45-36-137/4,** situated at Pipeline East, Kasturiba Nagar, 36th Division of Bengaluru City, executed by Smt.Ajeemabee in favour of Sri.Venkatachalaiah, the said deed duly registered as document No.253/1975-76, Book No.1, Volume No.1047, Pages 72 to 74, in the office of the Sub-Registrar of Basavanagudi, Bengaluru.
I also Filed the Lost Report before jurisdictional Bengaluru City Police, Bengaluru, vide report **No.110683/2021, Dated-25-06-2021.**
If anybody found the above said Document, kindly report to the nearest Police Station or Call: 9880910237.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring the notice of the General Public that my client, **Sri. T. Rama Mohan Reddy,** aged about 42 years, S/o Sri. Ramachandra Reddy, presently Residing at Flat No. 347, 9th Cross, AECS Layout, Koodlu Village, Madivala Post, Bangalore – 560068., do hereby declare that he has lost his original sale deed dated 08.09.2016, Document No.BSK-1-05978/2016-17, of Book – I, stored in CD No.BSKD372, on the file of the sub registrar, Banashankari, Bangalore, executed by Smt.Savitha and others, in respect of residential Flat No.212, having super built-up area 1185 square feet, undivided share 494 square feet, with one car parking, the apartment known as "Spring Leaf" out of Sy.No.191/1, Situated at Kudlu Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, while he has shifting the house dated 01.03.2021, unexpectedly lost or misplaced the above said original registered Sale deed, with his best efforts he could not able to trace the same, in this regard he had lodged a police complaint on 25.06.2021 before the Parappana Agrahara Police Station, vide GSC No.P01800210600408, since not traced, if any one find the above said original sale deed, may kindly be handover the same to the undersigned or to the nearby police station, in case any body misuse the said document, my client is not responsible for the same., Any person/s having objection/s or claims, with respect to the schedule property, may with documentary evidence, lodge their objections/claims within fifteen days from the date of this notice with the undersigned, where after no further claims will be entertained and or the same will be deemed to have been waived or abandoned.

H. R. Jayashekara Reddy, Advocate
No.348, 6th Main, 15 'A' Cross, 6th Sector, H.S.R.Layout, Bangalore – 560 102.
Mob.9880715022.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

GEM Bid No. GEM / 2021 / B / 1304888 Dated: 24.06.2021

The Divisional Railway Manager / Electrical Rolling Stock / Avadi, Southern Railway, Chennai - 600 062 invites ONLINE Open tender through GeM portal "**www.gem.gov.in**". The Tenderer(s) / Contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for the work of 'Washing of EMU/MEMU coaches at EMU Workshop, Avadi for 2 years' under the Item Category 'Hiring of Sanitation Service' in Chennai Division need to get enrolled in the aforesaid e-tender portal www.gem.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.

Name of work: **Washing of EMU/MEMU coaches at EMU Workshop, Avadi for 2 years**; Approximate Cost of Tender Value: ₹ **1,61,86,018/-** (including GST as applicable); Earnest money deposit: **NIL**; Period of Completion: **24 Months**; Location: **EMU Workshop, Avadi;** Tender Closing Date and Time: **05.07.2021 at 18.00 Hrs.;** Tender Opening Date and Time: **05.07.2021 at 18.30 Hrs.;** For details of Tender Conditions, Value of Work, Scope of Work and Tender submission, please visit the portal "**www.gem.gov.in**".

Divisional Railway Manager, Electrical Rolling Stock, Avadi, Chennai - 600 062.

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given to public at large that the property described in the schedule here below is owned by **1. Mr. Biju Thomas,** No.72, Spencer Road, Fraser Town, Bangaluru-5, **2. Mr. Binu Thomas,** No.63, 2nd Cross, Hutchins Road, St. Thomas Town, Bangaluru-84. claims to be the joint owners of the schedule property and has assured us that they are in possession of the said property. They have further assured that they have clear and marketable title and the said property is free from all encumbrances and they have full right to sell the said property. We are investigating the title of the owner (s) of the captioned said property on behalf and under instruction of our client **Mr. Vitthal. Laxman. Lamadade.** "EswareeNivas" No.9, First Floor, Viviyani Road, Fraser Town, Bangaluru-5. If any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever in respect of the said property by way of sale, inheritance, bequest, exchange, gift, possession, trust, mortgage, lease, licence, lien, charge, tenancy, lis-pendency, development rights, maintenance, easement or under any agreement of sale or Power of Attorney, option, right of first refusal or pre-emption whatsoever or otherwise howsoever, is hereby required to make the same known in writing with documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned at the address mentioned here below within 7 (Seven) days from date of the publication of this notice, failing which the sale transaction shall be completed without any reference to such right, title, interest, claim or demand and the same shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents and purposes. Claims without documentary proofs and /or objections directly published in News paper shall not be considered as valid.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of Apartment flat bearing No.106, at Ground Floor, built on residential apartment known as "BETHEL HEIGHT" having super built up area Measuring 1676.74 Sq feet, formed out of Property bearing Khatha No.3 P-I-D No.89-173-3, presently ward No.89 Kacharakanahally Village, KasabaHobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded as

East by: Flat No.101; West by: Private Property; North by: Road; South by: Flat No.105;

(Anil Reddy. S.) Advocate
AR LEGAL FIRM
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS
No.517, 5th Cross, 2nd Block, HRBR Layout, Behind LG Showroom, Inner Service Ring Road
Email: info@arleagalfirm.in Mob:9945383713

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
CENTRAL WORKSHOPS, PONMALAI, TRICHY – 620 004
E-TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SUPPLY OF STORES
No. GOC / Stores / E / 20 / 2021

The following e-tender has been published in IREPS website. Firms are requested to Login to **http://www.ireps.gov.in** → login → E.Tender → Goods & Services (New) and quote against the tender. Manual quotations will not be entertained. **Closing time : 14:30 hours**

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Due date
1	68215313A	**CAMSHAFT DRIVE HOUSING MACHINING ASSEMBLY**	15.07.2021

Attention : Micro Small Medium Enterprises [MSMEs]. The benefits provided to MSMEs under Public Procurement Policy for goods and services are as per details provided in the link **http://www.ireps.gov.in** → ireps public documents → Southern Railway

Deputy Chief Materials Manager, Goldenrock

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

JAS TOLL ROAD CO.LTD
Nagpur - 440010.
ABHIJEET

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public are hereby informed that, user fee for the use of road section from **Km 29.50 to Km. 62.00 Nelamangala to Tumkur of NH-48 (Old NH-4)** in the State of Karnataka is revised as per Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the Revised Rates which are effective from **00:00 hrs of 1st July 2021,** are as under: Notification No. SO.1466(E) dated 24.12.2003 and amended fee notification No. SO.1533(E) dated 06.04.2018.

CATEGORY OF VEHICLE	CAR	LGV	TRUCK/BUS
Fee for the whole stretch	40	70	140
Fee for the traffic crossing only one fee plaza	20	35	70
DISCOUNTED RATES			
Fee for the local personal traffic	5	-	-
Fee for the local commercial traffic	10	20	35

Eligibility Criteria for "Local Personal / Commercial Traffic" * Crossing only one fee plaza * Staying / Works at a place that can normally be using a part of project Highway * Having vehicle registered with the Concessionaire at respective fee plaza.

Sd/- AUTHORISED SIGNATORY
JAS TOLL ROAD COMPANY LIMITED

ತೋಟ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ಮಾರಾಟ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘ ನಿ.,
ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ ಆವರಣ ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 577213 ಕಚೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08189–228224, 9742263456
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:- tumcos/PB/T/182/2021–22 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 24.06.2021

–: ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ :–

ಸಂಘದ ಇಂಧನ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ (ಪೆಟ್ರೋಲ್ ಬಂಕ್) ಮೇಲ್ಚಾವಣಿ ಹಾಕಲು ಆರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.
Tender Number: DOC/2021-22/OW/WORK_INDENT444
Tender Title :Tenders Construction of Canopy for Tumcos Fuel Station, Channagiri.
ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://eproc.karnataka.gov.inರಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03/07/2021 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಅಥವಾ ಸಂಘದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.tumcos.com ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಪ್ರಧಾನ್ಯಾಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ತುಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಲಿ., ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ

Government of Karnataka
PUBLIC WORKS, PORTS AND INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA
No.: EE:PWD:CTA:AE-1:Tender-13:2021-22/482 Dated: 21.06.2021
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through e-Procurement Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Name of Work: TWO COVER SYSTEM: 4059-80-051-0-29-386 DEPARTMENT BUILDINGS: (1) Construction of Inspection Bunglow at Chitradurga (Construction of Circuit House at NH Executive Engineer Office Assistant Executive Engineer Office & QC Assistant Executive Engineer Office Premises inChitradurga) (WI.138237) Estimate Cost: Rs. 495.00 Lakhs.

Tender dates are as mentioned below: (1) Last Date & time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: 06.07.2021 Time: 17:30. (2) Last Date & time for receipts of Tenders: 07.07.2021 time: 16:00. (3) Date & time for opening of Technical Bid: 08.07.2021 Time: 16:01. (4) Date & time for opening of Financial Bid: 12.07.2021 Time: 11:00.

Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-2551216 and 080-25501227.

RO No. 221: DIPR/CTA/MCA/2021-22 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI DIVISION)
E-TENDER NOTICE No. T-SG-36-I-1-6-2021-2022
Dated: 25.06.2021

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli invites online tender for the following works **upto 14.00 hrs. on 20.07.2021.**

Item No.	Description
1	Tender Notice No. **T-SG-36-I-1-2021-2022;** Name of the work: **Indoor and Outdoor Signaling works in connection with construction of Track machine siding at VLR and CDM stations;** Cash Value in Lakhs: ₹ **25.06;** Period of Completion in Months: **FOUR Months**
2	Tender Notice No. **T-SG-36-I-2-2021-2022;** Name of the work: **Provision of Integrated Emergency response management system (Video Surveillance system) at stations ALU, VRI, PDY, NGT in TPJ Division;** Cash Value in Lakhs: ₹ **252.30;** Period of Completion in Months: **SIX Months**
3	Tender Notice No. **T-SG-36-I-3-2021-2022;** Name of the work: **Annual Zonal Contract of S&T gears under the jurisdiction of ADSTE/ Tiruchchirappalli for the zonal year 2021-22;** Cash Value in Lakhs: ₹ **24.99;** Period of Completion in Months: **TEN Months**
4	Tender Notice No. **T-SG-36-I-4-2021-2022;** Name of the work: **Annual Zonal Contract of S&T gears under the jurisdiction of ADSTE/Villupuram for the Zonal year 2021-22;** Cash Value in Lakhs: ₹ **24.99;** Period of Completion in Months: **TEN Months**
5	Tender Notice No. **T-SG-36-I-5-2021-2022;** Name of the work: **Shifting of starter signals to the boundary of the track circuit over TPJ Division;** Cash Value in Lakhs: ₹ **61.43;** Period of Completion in Months: **SIX Months**
6	Tender Notice No. **T-SG-36-I-6-2021-2022;** Name of the work: **Provision of Cable markers over TPJ Division;** Cash Value in Lakhs: ₹ **2.79;** Period of Completion in Months: **SIX Months**
Closing date and time	Item No. 1 to 6: **20.07.2021 @ 14.00 hrs.**
Validity Offer	Item No. 1 to 6: **45 Days**

If the date of opening of tender happens to be a declared holiday at a later date, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the stipulated time. The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms and conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued can be accessed through **https://www.ireps.gov.in/**. GST will apply as per extent norms of GOI.

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, DRM Office Complex, Tiruchchirappallai - 620 001.

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

QuoteExpress
THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED > MARK TWAIN

DHFL
Changing Rules Changing Lives

DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED
National Office: HDIL Towers, 6th Floor, Station Road, A.K.Marg, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051.
Regional Office : #13, Old No.5, 1st Main Road, Near Kodava Samaja Vasanth Nagar, Bangalore – 560052.
Praveen :9343178492 , Chetan :9008999611

Auction Sale Notice

Pursuant to possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the physical possession, on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis', Particulars of which are given below:

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount in (Rs.)	Reserve Price (RP) In(Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) In(Rs.)	Total Loan Outstanding (As on 11-06-2021) In (Rs.)
(Loan Code No. 00000643 Kolar Branch Jagan Venkatesh (Borrower), Mrs. Padma V (Co Borrower)	19-11-2019 for Rs. 39,35,093 /-	Rs. 41,00,000 /-	Rs. 4,10,000/-	Rs. 48,38,896/-

Description of the Immovable property: All that part and parcel of the property bearing, Site No.34, Guruva Paradise, Bileshivale Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore Bengaluru Karnataka 560077 and bounded on the East by – Road, West by – Sit N.24A and 23, North by – Site No.35 South by – Sit No.33, Measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 30 feet In Total 1500 Sq. Feet

The Terms and Conditions of the Auction are as under: 1. Last Date of Submission of Sealed Bid/Offer in the prescribed tender forms along with EMD and KYC is 30/07/2021 within 12:00 noon at the Regional Office address mentioned herein above. 2. The intending bidders should pay 10% of the reserve price of the property as Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by means of a "Demand Draft" in favour of 'Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited' or 'DHFL' Only on or before 30/07/2021 within 12:00 noon. No interest shall be paid on the EMD. 3. The successful bidder shall have to deposit Twenty Five Percent (25%) of the Bid Amount (less EMD) immediately on the same day or not later than next working day, as the case may be, without fail. the balance seventy five percent (75%) of the bid amount within 15 days of the sale or such extended period as agreed upon in writing by the Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor at his discretion. In case of any default in depositing the amount within the stipulated period, the deposit will be forfeited as per sub Rule (5) of Rule (9) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and the property shall be resold and the defaulting purchaser will forfeit all his/her claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold. 4. Date of Opening of the Bid/Offer (Auction Date) for Property is 30/07/2021 at the above mentioned branch office address at 1.00 PM. The tender will be opened in the presence of the Authorized Officer. The Bidders are advised to be present at the time of opening Bid as there shall be an interse open auction among the bidders. The bid increment from one bid to the other bid during such auction will be minimum Rs.10,000/- each. 5. Date of Inspection of the Immovable Property is between 10.00 AM to 06.00 PM before Auction date on prior request. 6. Further the interest will be charged as applicable, as per the Loan Agreement on the amount outstanding in the notice and incidental expenses, costs, etc., is due and payable till its realization. 7. The notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s, to remain present personally at the time of sale and they can bring the intending buyers/purchasers for purchasing the immovable property as described herein above, as per the particulars of Terms and Conditions of Sale. 8. Since the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) are hereby given 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002 to pay the sum mentioned as above before the date of Auction failing which the immovable property will be auctioned and balance, if any, will be recovered with interest and costs. If the Borrower pays the amount due to Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd., in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped. 9. The detail terms and conditions of the auction sale are incorporated in the prescribed tender form. Tender forms are available at the above mentioned circle office. The immovable property will be sold to the highest tenderer. However, the Authorized Officer reserves the absolute discretion to allow inter se bidding, if deemed necessary. The Property as mentioned will not be sold below Reserve Price. 10. DHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'. 11. The Total Loan Outstanding amount is not the loan foreclosure amount. All other charges (if any) shall be calculated at the time of closure of the loan. 12. Wherever applicable, its responsibility of Auction Purchaser to deduct Tax at Source (TDS) @ 1% of the total sale consideration on behalf of the resident owner on the transfer of immovable property having consideration equal to or above Rs.50 lacs and deposit the same with appropriate authority u/s.194 IA of Income Tax Act.

For further details, please contact the Authorized Officer, at the above mentioned Office address.

Place : Bangalore, Date : 27/06/2021 **Sd/- Mr.S.ARUMUGAM(Authorised Officer), For Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited**

edex
Every Monday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
Education, Guide, Jobs, Career changing Advertisements

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
BUILDING ORGANISATION, BLDGS (C&M) CIRCLE, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI-5
TENDER NOTICE No.01 BCM/2021-22/DATED: 23.06.2021.
FORM OF CONTRACT : LUMPSUM /Two Cover System

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Sealed tender are invited from eligible registered contractors by the Superintending Engineer,PWD., Bldgs (C &M) Circle, Chepauk, Chennai- 5 for the following work.

Sl. No.	Name of work and EMD	Approximate value of work	Period	EMD in favour of
1.	**Two Cover System** Providing additional amenities and additional works in the integrated building for Commercial Taxes and Registration (South Tower) at Government Farm Village, Nandanam, Guindy Taluk, Chennai-32. **EMD: Rs.7,19,000/-**	**Rs.1416.98 Lakhs**	**10 Months**	**Executive Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C) Division-I, Chennai-5**

Tender schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the Website **http:/www.tenders.tn.gov.in"(or) http://www.tntenders.gov.in"** and also available in the o/o the undersigned at a cost of Rs.15000/- + Rs.1800 (GST). Tender schedule will be made available **from 01.07.2021 to 04.08.2021.** Last date of receipt of tender is **05.08.2021 upto 03.00 P.M.** and opened on the same day at 04.00 P.M. by the undersigned. Contractors Eligibility conditions and all other conditions are available in the above Website.

DIPR/1858/TENDER/2021 **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD., BUILDINGS (C&M) CIRCLE, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI-5**

Evidence on UFOs inconclusive, says intelligence report

Can objects flying at mysterious speeds be linked to alien life? Truth is still out there

TECHNOLOGY

WASHINGTON: A highly awaited US intelligence report on dozens of mysterious unidentified flying object sightings said most could not be explained, but did not rule out that some could be alien spacecraft.

The unclassified report said researchers could explain only one of 144 UFO sightings by US government personnel and sources between 2004 and 2021, sightings that often were made during military training activities.

Eighteen of those, some observed from multiple angles, appeared to display unusual movements or flight characteristics that surprised those who saw them, like holding stationary in high winds at high altitude, and moving with extreme speed with no discernable means of propulsion, the report said.

Some of the 144 might be explained by natural or human made objects like birds or drones cluttering a pilot's radar, or natural atmospheric phenomena, the report said.

Others could be secret US defense tests, or unknown advanced technologies created by Russia or China, it said.

Yet others appeared to require more advanced technologies to determine what they are, it said.

The sightings of what the report calls unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP) "probably lack a single explanation," said the report from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. "We currently lack sufficient information in our dataset to attribute incidents to specific explanations."

The report made no mention of the possibility of -- or rule out -- that some of the objects sighted could represent extraterrestrial life.

The military and intelligence community have conducted research on them as a potential threat. "UAP clearly pose a safety of flight issue and may pose a challenge to US national security," the report said.

Some could be US rivals' intelligence collection operations or represent other technology so advanced that the United States military has nothing similar.

The report was ordered after more UFO sightings by military pilots became public and pilot and radar videos leaked out showing flying objects behaving strangely with no explanation.

It stressed that pilots and their aircraft are ill-equipped to identify out-of-the-ordinary objects floating around the skies. The only one of the 144 incidents in the years covered by the report that was explained turned out to be a large deflating balloon.

The nine-page report did not discuss any specific incidents. It was the public version of a more detailed classified version being supplied to the US armed services.

A dramatic image captured by Hubble shows a pillar of gas and dust within Carina Nebula that is actively being shaped by stars

EXFILE • TECHNOLOGY

ICONIC OBSERVATORY

Hubble Space Telescope, which brought us stunning images of the cosmos, went offline after its payload computer developed a glitch on June 13. NASA is yet to find out what went wrong. Meanwhile, we take a look at the famous instrument

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

THE TROUBLE WITH THE 1980s COMPUTER

Initial evidence indicated that the problem was a degrading computer memory module, but NASA now suspects a processing or interface hardware issue

WHAT DOES A PAYLOAD COMPUTER DO?

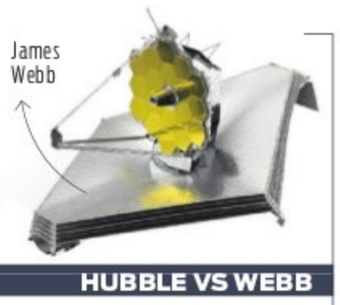
A payload computer controls the scientific instruments that help the telescope function. The technology for the payload computer dates back to the 1980s. The idled computer was installed during the fifth and final service call in 2009

AN AGEING INSTRUMENT

Hubble, which was launched more than 30 years ago, is showing more and more signs of aging, despite a series of repairs and updates by spacewalking astronauts during NASA's shuttle era

SUCCESSOR BEING READIED

NASA plans to launch Hubble's successor, the James Webb Space Telescope, in November



HUBBLE VS WEBB

Webb will feature a **6.5-METRE** diameter primary mirror. In contrast, the primary mirror of Hubble is 2.4 metre in diameter

Unlike Hubble, which orbits the earth, Webb will be stationed at Earth-Sun L2 Lagrange point, about 1.5 million km away

Webb will be an infrared telescope, which can peer deeper into space and see the earliest galaxies and look into dust clouds to study the formation of stars and planets

PROBING EYES IN SPACE

HERE ARE A FEW DISCOVERIES NASA MADE WITH THE HELP OF HUBBLE

1. Images of distant stars captured by Hubble have helped scientists calculate the age of the universe.
2. Hubble observations have helped scientists predict with certainty that a collision between Milky Way and Andromeda galaxies will take place beginning four billion years from now
3. It helped scientists make the first measurements of the atmospheric composition of extrasolar planets
4. It captured what might be the first visible-light images of an extrasolar planet
5. Hubble's gravitational lensing has allowed astronomers to map the distribution of dark matter in space
6. It has provided evidence that the hubs of most galaxies contain enormous black holes

1990 when Hubble Space Telescope was launched by space shuttle Discovery

547 km above Earth's surface is the height at which Hubble orbits the planet

$2 billion was the original building cost of the telescope

12,200 kg is the weight of Hubble telescope

95 minutes is how long it takes the telescope to orbit the Earth at a speed of 27,000 km/hr

150 GB of raw data transmitted back to Earth every day

Futuristic Gehry tower opens in World Heritage site

ARCHITECTURE

ARLES: Rising high beyond an ancient Roman arena in Arles, a tall, twisted tower created by Frank Gehry shimmers in the sun, the latest futuristic addition to this southern French city known for its World Heritage sites.

The tower, which opens to the public on Saturday, is the flagship attraction of a new "creative campus" conceived by the Swiss Luma arts foundation that wants to offer artists a space to create, collaborate and showcase their work.

Gehry, the 92-year-old brain behind Bilbao's Guggenheim museum and Los Angeles' Walt Disney Concert Hall, wrapped 11,000 stainless steel panels around his tower above a huge glass round base.

It will house contemporary art exhibitions, a library, and offices, while the Luma Arles campus as a whole will host conferences and live performances. From a distance, the structure reflects the changing lights of this town that inspired Van Gogh, capturing the whiteness of the limestone Alpilles mountain range nearby which glows a fierce orange when the sun sets.

Mustapha Bouhayati, the head of Luma Arles, says the town is no stranger to imposing monuments; its ancient Roman arena and theatre have long drawn the crowds. Luma Arles spreads out over a huge former industrial wasteland.

The tower is just the latest addition, he says. "We're building the heritage of tomorrow."

The site took seven years to build and many more years to conceive.

1 in 3 health workers reports depression, PTSD

RESEARCH

WASHINGTON: More than 30% public health workers have reported symptoms of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), because of the prolonged demand for responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, according to a study by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

To evaluate mental health conditions among the health care workers, the agency conducted a nonprobability-based online survey during March 29 to April 16, 2021.

Among 26,174 respondents, 53% reported symptoms of at least one mental health condition in the preceding 2 weeks.

About one in three each reported symptoms of depression (32.0%), anxiety (30.3%), PTSD (36.8%), while nearly 10% reported of planning suicide. The highest prevalence of symptoms of a mental health condition was among young workers below 29 years (47.4%) and transgender or nonbinary persons of all ages (65.5%) and those being unable to take time off from work.

Most (92.6%) respondents reported working directly on Covid-19 response activities; the majority (59.2%) worked more 41 hours in a typical week since March 2020.

LIGHTENING SKY

A early morning view of Chennai's Marina Beach on Saturday amid lockdown restrictions in the city | SHIBA PRASAD SAHU

Damming Amazon river basin actually increases emissions

ENVIRONMENT

WHEN climate researcher Dailson Bertassoli went to measure greenhouse gas emissions at the Belo Monte hydropower plant in Brazil, the first thing he noticed was the bubbles.

Developers have built hundreds of hydroelectric plants in the Amazon basin to take advantage of the allegedly "green" energy generated by its complex of rivers.

But climate researchers now know hydropower is not as good for the environment as once assumed. Though no fossil fuels are burned, the reservoirs release millions of tons of methane and carbon dioxide as vegetation decays underwater.

So called run-of-river (ROR) dams like Belo Monte along the Xingu River, which have smaller reservoirs and channels allowing reduced river flow, were meant to address the problem, but a study in *Science Advances* found that has not been the case. Bertassoli's team studied methane and carbon dioxide emissions during Belo Monte's first two years of operation and compared the results to levels prior to the reservoirs being filled, finding a threefold rise in greenhouse gas emissions.

"Once you have the flooding of dry land, the organic matter that was trapped in the soil starts to degrade," the professor of geology and climate change at the University of Sao Paulo said. These were the source of the bubbles he saw at one of the plant's reservoirs.

"Instead of a natural river, we now have a reactor that favors the production of methane," he added. And as fellow author and climate researcher Henrique Sawakuchi pointed out, these "smaller" reservoirs are still quite large, with the largest on a partly dammed river where dead trees stand starkly white amid vast stagnant green channels.

Sawakuchi's brother Andre, also a professor, argues it is important to keep the Amazon flowing. "This is the pulse of the river. With a hydroplant, there is no more pulse."

FACT OF THE MATTER

FDA nod for tocilizumab

MEDICINE

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the drug Actemra (tocilizumab) for the treatment of hospitalised patients with Covid-19. Under the EUA, the drug can be administered only to hospitalised adults and pediatric patients (2 years of age and older), receiving systemic corticosteroids and require supplemental oxygen, non-invasive or invasive mechanical ventilation, or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). However, Actemra is not authorised for use in outpatients with Covid-19, the FDA said. Trials showed that administering Actemra reduced the risk of death as well as decreased the amount of time patients remained hospitalised.

Delta most transmissible

HEALTH

The head of the World Health Organization said the COVID-19 delta variant, first seen in India, is "the most transmissible of the variants identified so far," and warned it is now spreading in at least 85 countries. At a press briefing on Friday, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the lack of vaccines in poor countries was exacerbating the delta variant's transmission. He described a recent meeting he attended of an advisory group established to allocate vaccines. "They were disappointed because there is no vaccine to allocate," he said, criticizing rich countries for declining to immediately share shots with the developing world.

STARS GAZE ON US

Hiding not an option, say astronomers after finding out many stars have prime Earth view

SPACE

FEELING like you are being watched? It could be from a lot farther away than you think.

Astronomers took a technique used to look for life on other planets and flipped it around — so instead of looking to see what's out there, they tried to see what places could see us.

There's a lot.

Astronomers calculated that 1,715 stars in our galactic neighborhood — and hundreds of probable Earth-like planets circling those stars — have had an unobstructed view of Earth during human civilization, according to a study in *Nature*.

"When I look up at the sky, it looks a little bit friendlier because it's like, maybe somebody is waving," said study lead author Lisa Kaltenegger, director of the Carl Sagan Institute at Cornell University.

Even though some experts, including the late Stephen Hawking, warn against reaching out to aliens because they could harm us, Kaltenegger said it doesn't matter. If those planets have advanced life, someone out there could conclude that there is life back here based on oxygen in our atmosphere, or by the radio waves from human sources that have swept over 75 of the closest stars on her list.

"Hiding is not really an option," she said.

One way humans look for potentially habitable planets is by watching them as they cross in front of the star they are orbiting, which dims the stars' light slightly. Kaltenegger and astrophysicist Jacqueline Faherty of the American Museum of Natural History used the European Space Agency's Gaia space telescope to turn that around, looking to see what star systems could watch Earth as it passes in front of the sun.

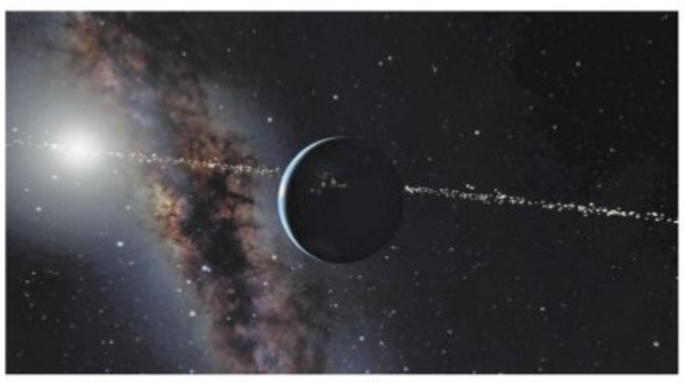
They looked at the 331,312 stars within 326 light-years of Earth. One light-year is 5.9 trillion miles. The angle to see Earth pass in front of the sun is so small that only the 1,715 could see Earth at some point in the last 5,000 years, including 313 that no longer can see us because we've moved out of view.

Another 319 stars will be able to see Earth in the next 5,000 years, including a few star systems where scientists have already spotted Earth-like planets, prime candidates for contact.

That brings the total to more than 2,000 star systems with an Earth view.

The closest star on Kaltenegger's list is the red dwarf star Wolf 359, which is 7.9 light-years away. It's been able to see us since the disco era of the mid 1970s.

Carnegie Institution for Science planetary scientist Alan Boss, who wasn't part of the study, called it "provocative."



The illustration depicts Earth, with the Sun in the background. The line of spots across the center of the image indicates star systems which can see Earth as it goes in front of our Sun | OPENSPACE/AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY via AP